

# 2014 Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office in the News

**June 5, 2014: WLFITV**

## Woman accused of using stolen credit card sentenced



LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette woman is sentenced to three years for spending more than \$2,100 on a stolen credit card in less than six hours.

In May, Kelli Cooksey, 40, pleaded guilty to fraud and theft.

According to court documents, Cooksey was working at Inside Scoop at Tippecanoe Mall in December. A credit card was used by a customer and the customer didn't realize she never got her card back until the fraud department with her bank called.

After investigating, Lafayette police linked Cooksey to eight transactions at stores including Express, Best Buy, and Walmart.

She was sentenced to one year in Community Corrections and two years supervised probation.

**June 5, 2014: WLFITV**

## Woman sentenced after Tippecanoe County burglary



TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) – Natasha Ollins, 27, of Lafayette, is sentenced to Community Corrections and probation after pleading guilty to conspiracy to commit burglary.

Prosecutors said sheriff's deputies responded to a reported burglary at a home near West Point in September 2012.

When the resident got home, she saw a strange car in her driveway and tried to block it in, but the driver took off through the grass. After the resident went inside, she found an iPad and jewelry had been stolen.

She was able to identify Ollins' photograph.

Ollins was sentenced to five years in Community Corrections and five years of probation.

**June 5, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Would-be robber retreats, faces charges anyway**

Steven Porter, [sporter@jconline.com](mailto:sporter@jconline.com)

Thomas Sanders, 20, of Lafayette allegedly tried to rob a Village Pantry in January but fled when the store clerk grabbed a phone to call police.

Security camera footage shows a man wearing a brown jacket and camouflage face mask approach the clerk after everyone else had left the building, according to a probable cause affidavit.

The clerk told police that the man, later identified as Sanders, put his hand in his jacket pocket, claimed to have a gun and demanded money from the cash register.

"The male called her by name and also commented he had to pay his child support," the affidavit states.

Acting on a tip that identified the suspect as Sanders, officers showed an array of photos to the clerk and another witness who spoke to Sanders in the store moments before the incident. Both identified Sanders as the attempted robber.

Consequently, two charges were filed this week against Sanders. He made an initial court appearance Wednesday and pleaded not guilty to Class C felony attempted robbery and Class D felony attempted theft.

Sanders was released on \$500 cash bond. A jury trial is scheduled for Oct. 7.

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**June 4, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Overnight guest allegedly molested 6-year-old girl**

Steven Porter, [sporter@jconline.com](mailto:sporter@jconline.com)

William Coleman slept on a Lafayette family's couch more than two years ago, but prosecutors allege he didn't stay in the living room all night.

Coleman, 44, slipped into a 6-year-old girl's bedroom while she was sleeping and molested her, according to a probable cause affidavit filed Monday.

Interviewed the day after the incident, the girl told investigators that "Bill" entered her room and knelt beside her bed as he touched her.

Indiana State Police reported that a sample from the girl's sexual assault examination showed DNA found on the victim is consistent with that obtained from Coleman, court documents state.

Coleman faces a Class C felony for fondling the victim and a Class A felony for digital penetration.

The penalty for a Class A felony is 20 to 50 years. The lesser charge is punishable by two to eight years.

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**June 3, 2014: WLFITV**

## **Lafayette man charged with child molesting**

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette man has been charged with two counts of child molesting.

William Coleman, 44, faces two felony counts for an event investigators said happened more than two years ago involving a 6-year-old girl.

Investigators said Coleman was staying at a couple's home in April 2012 when the offenses occurred. They also said a DNA profile obtained via swab from the victim matched Coleman.

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**May 30, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **17-year-old to face Lafayette burglary charges as adult**

Steven Porter, [sporter@jconline.com](mailto:sporter@jconline.com)

A teenage boy arrested in connection with a string of recent burglaries in Lafayette was waived into adult court this week.

Nicholas Dettman, 17, of Lafayette, faces 10 felony charges that allege he and another boy burglarized multiple homes in the vicinity of Columbian Park in April and May.

He faces eight Class B felonies for burglary and conspiracy to commit burglary, one count of Class C felony burglary and one Class D felony for conspiracy to commit theft.

Any criminal proceeding initiated against Dettman's 15-year-old co-defendant is confidential because he's still being treated as a juvenile. Dettman lost his shroud of confidentiality, however, when Tippecanoe Superior Court 3 Judge Faith Graham ordered that his case be transferred from juvenile to adult court.

Graham's order states that Dettman is "beyond rehabilitation of the juvenile justice system" and that it's in the best interest of both Dettman and society at large that he stand trial as an adult.

The document details the boy's criminal history, which began with an arrest at age 9 for theft and includes subsequent adjudications for theft, battery and running away. He violated the terms of his probation in 2012, court documents state, when he tested positive for marijuana and admitted to using drugs and alcohol.

He's been on probation three times and held at two juvenile detention centers on multiple occasions each.

Per Graham's order, Dettman was transported this week to Tippecanoe County Jail, where he's being held in lieu of \$12,500 surety bond.

**May 30, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Man who fled to Pakistan sentenced for 1999 car thefts**



Steven Porter, [sporter@jconline.com](mailto:sporter@jconline.com)

Nearly 15 years ago, an American man fled to Pakistan after being charged with breaking into a Lafayette car dealership, stealing multiple vehicles and setting one of them on fire at Purdue University.

Abu-Bakr Usman Mirza, 33, returned to U.S. soil late last year, signed a plea agreement in April and was sentenced Thursday to four years executed with the Indiana Department of Correction followed by 18 months of supervised probation.

Mirza testified during his sentencing hearing that he came back from Pakistan, his family's home country, to face the charges locally, according to Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington.

He pleaded guilty to three of the seven charges brought against him, including a Class C felony for burglary.

The most serious charge, Class B felony arson, was dismissed, per the plea deal.

In addition to the intentional burning of a Mercury Grand Marquis near Purdue's engineering fountain, court documents recount a dramatic, early morning chase throughout Greater Lafayette.

Driving a stolen minivan, Mirza reportedly reached 75 mph in downtown Lafayette and went airborne when he crossed railroad tracks on Columbia Street. He proceeded into West Lafayette, where he sideswiped a large rock and ran over a 3-foot steel barrier west of Stanley Coulter Hall.

"The van was dragging one of the steel posts it had struck, causing a shower of sparks to fly," the affidavit states.

Mirza eventually lost a tire before he jumped from the vehicle near Evergreen Street, letting the van crash into a tree. He then ran into a home in the 500 block of Stadium Street, where officers apprehended him, the affidavit states.

Mirza has been ordered to pay \$4,500 in restitution to Bob Rohrman Auto Group. He's also wanted in Howard County on burglary charges from 2000.

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**May 29, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Man charged for robbing delivery driver**

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man faces robbery, theft and battery charges after prosecutors said he punched and robbed a sandwich delivery driver.

The incident occurred on 21st Street in Lafayette Saturday, May 24. Prosecutors said when the driver arrived, Zachary Collins asked him to break a \$100 bill. He then took the driver's wallet and threw punches at his head during a struggle.

Prosecutors said Collins ran off with the wallet. Even though Collins changed clothes before police arrested him, the victim and a witness identified him as the person of interest.

Prosecutors said officers located the clothes and money inside an apartment where Collins was found.

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**May 28, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Another prostitution arrest for teen**

Ron Wilkins, [rwilkins@jconline.com](mailto:rwilkins@jconline.com)

Malika Nichole Granados' adult entertainment advertisement read, "Take you to the candy shop. ..." That led a police officer to respond to the ad and then take her to jail, according to Lafayette police.

Granados, 19, was arrested at an eastside motel Tuesday night after a police officer responded to an Internet ad and set up a meeting, Lafayette police Lt. Jim Taul said, reading from the police report.

Granados was charged with promoting prostitution and prostitution, both misdemeanors. She is being held in Tippecanoe County Jail.

She was previously charged in December with a Class A misdemeanor for prostitution. A guilty plea hearing in that case was scheduled for Wednesday morning, but jail staff said records indicate that she didn't leave the jail to make that hearing.

Taul said Granados gave police a Lafayette address when arrested. In the December arrest she gave a Fayetteville, Ark., address, Taul said.

**May 28, 2014: WLFITV**

## **Man who fled US after arrest is sentenced**

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLF) – A man who fled the United States for more than a decade because of criminal charges is sentenced to five and a half years in prison on Thursday.

Charges including arson, burglary and theft were filed in 1999 against Abu-Baker Mirza, 33.

As News 18 reported, Mirza broke into the Bob Rohrman Mercury car dealership and stole a Grand Marquis. He drove the car to Purdue's campus and set it on fire.

After Mirza was arrested, prosecutors said he fled to Pakistan where his family is from.

In December, Mirza was arrested at the Atlanta airport when he tried to return to the U.S. He pleaded guilty in early May to burglary, theft of a motor vehicle and resisting law enforcement.

Mirza was sentenced Thursday morning to four years in prison and a year and a half of supervised probation.

On Thursday, Mirza testified he was aware of his warrant and "came back to face the charges."

**May 28, 2014: WLFITV**

## **Prostitution cases increase in Tippecanoe Co**

By Kelly Roberts

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) — This year the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office has filed 14 prostitution cases. A number that has skyrocketed from 2013.

The arrest of 19-year-old Malika Nichole Granados is part of several growing trends in Tippecanoe County. She was arrested Tuesday on preliminary charges of promoting prostitution and prostitution.

In the first five months of 2014, Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington has filed 14 prostitution cases when he is used to filing one to five per year.

It's a growing trend that could be thanks in part to the internet.

"The image my generation has of prostitution is the car driving up and down the dark alley looking for a lady on the corner, like you see in the movies. That type of activity doesn't exist. They all use the internet to promote, contact and arrange," explained Harrington.

Granados was arrested at the Red Roof Inn on State Road 26 in Lafayette.

Harrington said a majority of the arrests are at hotels indicating most of the prostitutes are coming from out of town.

"In fact, the majority of the ladies that have been arrested are not even from the Tippecanoe County area," Harrington said. "They're driving the interstate, and making contacts and arranging to be here in our community."

For Harrington, the most alarming trend is the age.

"There have been several arrests where the women aren't women. They are 18, 19, 20 years old. They're still teenagers. That's very disturbing," Harrington said.

Harrington said there has been one case where the girl was under 18 years old.

As for Granados, a formal charge of prostitution, a Class A misdemeanor, has been filed against her.

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**May 23, 2014: WLFITV**

## **Cousins' attorney plans to use insanity defense**

By Dan Klein

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) — The attorney for Cody Cousins has filed a notice that he plans to use a defense of mental disease or defect.

On Friday, Superior II Judge Thomas Busch signed off on an order to get previous medical and psychiatric records of Cousins. Also Friday morning, two doctors from the Wabash Valley Alliance Steven Berger and Vernon Little were appointed to examine Cousins.

The judge's order states that Cousins must tell the court the names of the people and institutions who have treated him in the past so that all of his records can be collected. If he fails to do so, the mental disease defense will be waived.

Trial is still set for Oct. 6. But as News 18 has already reported, the attorney for Cousins Kirk Freeman has requested a change of venue.

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**May 22, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Man sentenced for sexual misconduct with 8th-grader**

Steven Porter, [sporter@jonline.com](mailto:sporter@jonline.com)

Michael Black, 30, of Lafayette was found guilty but mentally ill while engaging in sexual misconduct with a 14-year-old girl.

He was sentenced Thursday to 10 years with the Indiana Department of Correction.

The eighth-grade girl told investigators that she and Black had been exchanging flirtatious text messages.

Black said he and the girl kissed when she was 13 but that every incident of sexual touching occurred after her 14th birthday.

Black had known the girl's family for about four years and had been living in their home, entrusted with her care at times. That he used that position of trust to pursue an improper relationship with her was identified by the judge as an aggravating factor in the case.

Mitigating factors included pleading guilty, cooperating with law enforcement, having family support and suffering from mental illness.

**May 22, 2014: WLFITV**

## **Man sentenced for sexual misconduct with a minor**



TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette man is sentenced to a decade in prison for sexual misconduct with a minor.

Michael Black, 30, pleaded guilty to the felony charge in April. According to prosecutors, Black was having a sexual relationship with a 14-year-old girl he'd known since she was 11.

Thursday, Black was sentenced to 10 years, fully executed, in the department of corrections. Prosecutors said Black's mental illness was a mitigating factor in the sentencing.

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**May 21, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Report leads to Class A felony meth charge**

Steven Porter, [sporter@jonline.com](mailto:sporter@jonline.com)

A landlord in the process of evicting two tenants with children from their West Lafayette home alerted authorities to unsafe living conditions, prompting a police investigation that ultimately led to serious drug charges.

Garrett Chaffin, 36, faces seven drug-related charges, including a Class A felony for dealing in methamphetamine.

Officers obtained a warrant to search Chaffin's home in the 2800 block of Soldiers Home Road, where they found a bucket containing items commonly used to manufacture methamphetamine, according to a probable cause affidavit filed by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office.

In addition to meth-making materials, officers reportedly found methamphetamine, marijuana, smoking paraphernalia, prescription pills and a set of digital scales in the apartment, the document states.

Chaffin, who returned home while officers were at his residence, had meth and a pipe in his possession, the affidavit states, noting that he admitted to trading pseudoephedrine pills for meth and using the drug himself.

A Class A felony carries a possible sentence of 20-50 years. Chaffin also faces a Class B felony for meth possession, a Class C felony illegal drug lab charge, two Class C felonies for neglect of a dependent, a Class D felony for maintaining a common nuisance and a Class A misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia.

The dealing offense allegedly took place within 1,000 feet of Village Manor Apartments, Sagamore Ridge Apartments and the Montessori School of Greater Lafayette.

The affidavit notes that Chaffin's criminal history includes a Class B felony conviction for battery resulting in serious bodily injury, for which he is still on probation.

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**May 20, 2014: WLFITV**

## **Man faces charges after landlord reports 'unsafe conditions'**

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) — A West Lafayette man faces methamphetamine and child neglect charges after prosecutors said he had items used to make the drug in his home.

Prosecutors said police went to the home of Garrett Chaffin, 36, after the landlord reported unsafe conditions and damage to the property. They said police found items used to make meth, prescription drugs and drug paraphernalia in the home.

Prosecutors said Chaffin came home while police were there and admitted using meth. Chaffin lived at the home with his wife and two young sons.

Chaffin faces charges including, but not limited to, dealing and possession of methamphetamine, neglect of a dependent, possession of paraphernalia, and maintaining a common nuisance.

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**May 17, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Accused Purdue shooter to undergo mental health evaluation**

Ron Wilkins, [rwilkins@jconline.com](mailto:rwilkins@jconline.com)

Cody Cousins' sanity at the time he is accused of slaying 21-year-old Purdue University student Andrew Boldt informally became part of his legal defense Thursday morning.

Cousins' attorney, Kirk Freeman, filed a motion last week asking the court to finance a mental evaluation for Cousins, and he also filed a motion to reset the court's administrative deadline, which lapsed in March.

Tippecanoe Superior Court 2 Judge Thomas Busch interpreted those requests as the initial steps of Freeman raising the insanity defense, which Freeman confirmed was his intent.

"He treated it as if it was an insanity (defense) even though I haven't asked for it yet," Freeman said after the hearing.

Busch ordered Wabash Valley Alliance to provide one psychiatrist and one other expert to evaluate Cousins. Because of the high-profile nature of this case, Busch will ask for a third expert to evaluate Cousins. If at any time Cousins refuses to cooperate with those assessing his mental health, the insanity defense becomes moot, Busch said during the hearing.

Cousins, 23, is accused of stabbing and shooting Boldt in a basement classroom of the Electrical Engineering Building around noon Jan. 21.

Earlier this month, Cousins told the court that after arriving at the jail he was prescribed medicine to control his moods and treat schizophrenia.

Cousins' previous attorney hinted that he intended to raise the insanity defense, but the paperwork was never filed, Busch said during the hearing. Freeman asked that the deadline be reset in order to file the defense, he said after the hearing.

Since Busch will allow the defense, there is no need to reset the deadline, and Freeman's motion was denied.

Freeman, who filed his appearance as Cousins' attorney on Monday, filed several other motions that day, including a request for a change of venue, which Busch said requires the court have a hearing to debate the issue.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Patrick Harrington said it was too soon to determine if the jury pool might be tainted by media coverage, publicity or the community's reaction to the shooting. Harrington proposed setting a hearing in September, closer to the Oct. 6 trial date. By that time, Freeman, the court and the prosecution will have a broader view of the effect to the potential jurors. Freeman did not object.

Busch approved Freeman's request to fund a computer consultant to assist with reviewing video and audio evidence, and he approved the request to fund a court reporter for depositions and transcripts. However, Busch denied Freeman's request to fund a private investigator to help on the case. Instead, Freeman, who is a specially appointed public defender, may use investigators in the public defender's office.

Freeman also filed a motion for the state and third parties to produce documents and preserve computer documents, such as Purdue records. Busch delayed ruling on that until Freeman receives the evidence released to Cousins' first attorney in the discovery process. Freeman expected to receive those documents by Saturday. Additionally, some of the requests for records from third parties should be vetted by the parties' counsel to determine if they intend to contest Freeman's request.

A hearing is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. May 23 to review the motions for documents.

## Lafayette man gets 10 years for strangling girlfriend

Steven Porter, [spporter@jconline.com](mailto:spporter@jconline.com)

Misael Sanchez, who strangled his girlfriend in a fit of rage last year before fleeing the state with his children, was sentenced Friday to a 10-year executed sentence.

A jury found Sanchez guilty in April of voluntary manslaughter, a Class B felony, for the slaying of 25-year-old Marisol Arze-Lujan. He originally was charged with murder but the jury convicted him of the lesser charge.

Sanchez read a statement to Tippecanoe Circuit Court Judge Don Daniel during the hearing to express remorse.

"I wish I could take it all back," he said. "I pray one day the family will see how sorry I am, really sorry."

Sanchez began to cry when he spoke of the harm he'd done to his children.

"I can hear them crying for their mother," he said, noting that one day he'll have to confess to them as well.

Defense attorney Matt Sandy said his client hopes to continue supporting his children financially and one day have a relationship with them again.

Sandy argued that Sanchez should be sentenced to just eight years incarcerated because he fully cooperated with investigators, took responsibility for his actions and exhibits a low risk to re-offend, according to the pre-sentence investigation.

Those who know Sanchez describe him as kind, hard-working and especially caring toward his family, Sandy said.

Prosecuting attorney Kristen McVey countered Sandy's argument, saying that Sanchez didn't even try to resuscitate his girlfriend before fleeing. She said that Sanchez and his family lied to investigators, exhibiting a disrespect for the law.

Though the two misdemeanor convictions on Sanchez's record for driving without a license are far less severe than his manslaughter conviction, McVey said Sanchez further exhibited a disregard for "lawful social norms" even after being punished.

"The fact remains that he's been driving for 15 years without a license," she said.

McVey said five police reports dating back to 2007 clearly and accurately depict Sanchez' relationship with his girlfriend as bearing the hallmarks of domestic abuse. Accounts given in those reports by multiple people, including Arze-Lujan herself, point to chronic issues of control and aggression by Sanchez, McVey said.

"This was not an anomaly that he killed her," she said.

McVey asked the judge for a 20-year executed sentence, prompting a quizzical tone from Daniel.

"You think this was the worst of the worst?" Daniel asked.

McVey responded in the affirmative.

"This day was coming for a long time prior to the killing," she said.

Daniel determined that the aggravating and mitigating factors in Sanchez's case were roughly equivalent, so he settled on the advisory sentence set by the state legislature for a Class B felony.

## **Man sentenced to 10 years for killing mother of his kids**

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – The Lafayette man convicted of voluntary manslaughter was sentenced to 10 years behind bars.

Misael Sanchez, 33, was charged with murder last year for killing Marisol Arze-Lujan, 25, in their Lafayette home last year.

Authorities found Sanchez in Arkansas with the couple's three children.

During the trial last month, a taped video of Sanchez was played for the jury while he was in custody in Arkansas. In that video, Sanchez confessed to killing Arze-Lujan, his longtime girlfriend. He said she was hitting him and yelling at him before he grabbed her by the neck for several minutes.

The jury convicted Sanchez of the lesser charge voluntary manslaughter, because they said he acted under what's called "sudden heat."

In court Friday, the defense recommended the judge sentence Sanchez to eight years behind bars for killing his girlfriend. The state asked for the maximum of 20 years.

Sanchez was emotional as he read a letter to the judge Friday. Sanchez said he wishes he could take back what happened. He said he was sorry for the pain he caused their three children, and said one day he will have to tell them the truth about how their mother died.

On top of the 10 year sentence Sanchez will have to pay \$5,000 in restitution.

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**May 15, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Ex-pastor admits to planting restroom video cameras**

Steven Porter, [sporter@jconline.com](mailto:sporter@jconline.com)

Robert Lyzenga, the former pastor of Sunrise Christian Reformed Church in Lafayette, admitted Thursday to secretly video-recording women and girls within two church restroom stalls over the course of several months more than two years ago.

Lyzenga, 57, held his composure throughout the hearing and spoke with a stressed but steady tone as he pleaded guilty to all 10 counts, without the benefit of a plea agreement.

Judge Randy Williams set a sentencing hearing for July 18 and said Lyzenga's sentence will be served concurrently, meaning he'll get two to 10 years.

Lyzenga admitted to five Class C felonies for child exploitation and five counts of Class D felony voyeurism, one charge for each of his 10 victims.

The girls ranged in age from 5 to 16 when they were caught by Lyzenga's camera.

"It was not my intention to record children," he said during testimony Thursday.

Even after learning that juveniles had been recorded, however, Lyzenga continued recording and reviewing the footage, he said.

Lyzenga said he thought early on that he wouldn't feel terribly guilty as long as he didn't know which parishioners he'd recorded. After awhile, though, he did figure out who his victims were, he said.

He installed the first camera during the Thanksgiving 2011 season. The second one went up, he said, in early 2012. He pointed the devices at two of the five toilets in the women's restroom just off the sanctuary, where Lyzenga continued to lead services.

"They were Velcro-ed to the door," he said. "I made it look like it was an air freshener."

Lyzenga continued as pastor about five months, during which time he downloaded footage, then reinstalled the cameras more times than he could recall, until he was caught in late April 2012.

"I could've stopped at any time, but I didn't," he said, calling his actions "shameful."

Lyzenga said he hasn't undergone treatment for a mental illness, though he did go to a psychiatric hospital the day after he was arrested.

About a dozen members of the church community who attended the hearing declined to comment.

Defense attorney Kent Moore said after the hearing that his client didn't target the juveniles.

"He was aware of the possibility," Moore said, "but the goal was not to video children."

Prosecuting attorney Emily Worsinger declined to comment.

**May 15, 2014: WLFITV**

## **Lafayette pastor pleads guilty to all charges**



By Holly Campbell

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) — A former Lafayette pastor who is accused of child exploitation and voyeurism pleads guilty to ten charges.

As News 18 previously reported, Robert Lyzenga pleaded guilty to all charges, five felony counts of child exploitation and five felony counts of voyeurism for planting cameras inside air fresheners in the women's bathroom stalls at Sunrise Christian Reformed Church.

On Thursday, Lyzenga said he wanted to see if he could get away with it. After no one detected the first camera hidden inside the stall to look like an air freshener, he said he put another one up.

Lyzenga said it was never his intention to tape children. However he said he reviewed the tape, saw kids and continued to record.

Because he couldn't see the faces of the women he was recording, Lyzenga said he didn't think he would feel as bad. However, Lyzenga said he eventually figured out who they were.

The sentencing date has been set for July 18. He could spend anywhere from two to 10 years in prison.

**May 15, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Lafayette man charged in May 10 shooting**

Steven Porter, [sporter@jconline.com](mailto:sporter@jconline.com)

Joshua Allen, 22, of Lafayette, was charged Thursday in connection with a weekend shooting that left 22-year-old Sean Gentle injured outside Allen's residence in the 3000 block of Elk Street.

Allen was arrested Saturday on a preliminary charge of attempted murder, but the formal charges brought against him are less severe. He faces a Class B felony for aggravated battery plus three Class C felonies: battery by means of a deadly weapon, battery resulting in serious bodily injury and criminal recklessness.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said it's up to his office to determine which charges should be brought. He said every investigation is fluid and that charges can be added or dropped.

Officers called to the scene Saturday found Gentle leaning against a vehicle, with a gunshot wound to his abdomen, according to a probable cause affidavit. Gentle was taken to St. Elizabeth East hospital, where he underwent surgery and was later interviewed by investigators.

Allen was found three blocks away with blood on his clothes and an abrasion on his forehead.

Witnesses said Allen had initiated verbal contact with Gentle before a physical altercation broke out, followed by two gunshots, court documents state.

A neighbor reported seeing Allen strike Gentle, then shoot him.

Allen appears to have been convicted in Illinois for unlawful possession of a firearm by a gang member in 2012, according to the probable cause affidavit. He was convicted of resisting law enforcement in 2010, trespassing in 2011 and two additional counts of trespassing in 2013.

**May 15, 2014: WLFI-TV**

## **Lafayette man avoids murder charges**

By Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette man avoids attempted murder charges after prosecutors said he shot a man last weekend.

Prosecutors said Joshua Allen, 22, got into a fight with Sean Gentle, 22, on Elk Street Saturday, May 10. During the incident, they said Allen shot Gentle in the abdomen.

Gentle was taken to St. Elizabeth East Hospital and had surgery for his wounds.

Prosecutors said witnesses told police the men got into a physical altercation before Allen fired the shots.

They said police found Allen a few blocks away with blood on his shoes and boxer shorts.

Allen faces charges including aggravated battery, battery and criminal recklessness. He had originally faced a preliminary charge of attempted murder.

**May 15, 2014: WLFITV**

## **Pastor accused of child exploitation has plea hearing**

By Alexandra Kruczek / Holly Campbell

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A high-profile case will be in court later Thursday afternoon for the plea hearing of Robert Lyzenga.

As News 18 previously reported, a former Lafayette pastor who is accused of child exploitation and voyeurism will plea guilty to ten charges. Lyzenga is accused of planting cameras inside air fresheners in the women's bathroom stalls at Sunrise Christian Reformed Church.

Lyzenga's attorney told the court last week his client will plead guilty to five felony counts of child exploitation and five felony accounts of voyeurism.

His attorney filed a motion to dismiss the charges in June arguing the victims lacked knowledge of a hidden camera photographing them, and the charges do not fit the child exploitation statute. The judge disagreed and denied the motion.

The hearing begins at 3:30 p.m. Thursday.

Holly Campbell will have more details on the hearing tonight on News 18 at Five and Six.

**May 15, 2014: WLFITV**

## **Cousins may use insanity defense in trial**

By Holly Campbell

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) – The man accused of killing a Purdue student on campus earlier this year may use an insanity defense.

In Thursday's hearing, the judge addressed Cody Cousins' recently appointed public defender Kirk Freeman's motion for expenditure of public funds. On the list was a mental health assessment.

The judge granted the expenses for the evaluation and treated the request as a notice of insanity defense. That means the defense has the option to use the defense of insanity during trial. Cousins will be evaluated by two psychiatrists or psychologists from the Wabash Valley Alliance.

If Cousins does not cooperate with the medical witnesses appointed by the court, evidence from any other medical witnesses may not be used as evidence. In court last week, Cousins said he is taking medicine for schizophrenia.

Freeman also wants Cousins' trial moved out of Tippecanoe County. Prosecutor Pat Harrington said the state needs more time to respond to the change of venue request. Another hearing on that will be at a later date.

Cousins' trial date is still set for Oct. 6, 2014 in Tippecanoe County.

**May 14, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Man accused of misconduct with girl, 15**

Steven Porter, [sporter@jconline.com](mailto:sporter@jconline.com)

Christopher Wilson, 22, of Lafayette faces allegations that he engaged in a sex act with a 15-year-old girl on Easter Sunday.

He was charged Wednesday with sexual misconduct with a minor, a Class B felony.

The victim's mother, who identified herself as Wilson's ex-girlfriend, said the defendant was aware of her daughter's age because the alleged crime took place during the girl's birthday party, according to a probable cause affidavit from the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office.

The girl's grandmother told officers she discovered Wilson indecently exposed in the kitchen with her granddaughter, the document states.

Wilson, who told officers he was drunk at the time, denied specific allegations but admitted sending to the victim Facebook posts that indicated his involvement.

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**May 12, 2014: WLFITV**

## **Cousins' new attorney wants a change of venue**

By Kyle Boyd

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – The new attorney representing Cody Cousins wants a judge to move the murder trial out of Tippecanoe County.

Kirk Freeman, the newly appointed public defender, is seeking a change of venue for the trial, which is currently scheduled for October.

Freeman cited six reasons for the trial to move including that Purdue University is a major employer in the county where a potential jury pool would be drawn, and that recent reporting of Cousins' use of mental health medication has been "inflammatory."

Freeman is also seeking public funds for a computer consultant, a private investigator for assistance in locating records and witnesses, a court reporter, and a mental health assessment for Cousins.

Academic and disciplinary records for both Cody Cousins and Andrew Boldt have been requested.

In documents filed Monday is a motion to preserve computer records including files, time logs and audio/video recordings from the Purdue and West Lafayette Police departments, the Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Office, Indiana Homeland Security Department, and Purdue and West Lafayette Fire departments.

A motion to continue or reset the omnibus date was also in Monday's filings.

A scheduling conference has been set for May 16.

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**May 10, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Five charged in two motel meth busts**

Steven Porter, [sporter@jconline.com](mailto:sporter@jconline.com)

Five defendants face a total of 11 charges after they were arrested in two recent motel room meth busts in Greater Lafayette.

Belinda Bernard-Yoakum, 37, of Lafayette was outside Room 116 at Prestige Inn in West Lafayette early on April 30 when officers made contact with her, according to a probable cause affidavit filed by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office. She consented to a search of the room occupied by her 2-year-old child and 36-year-old Shawn Yoakum, who's homeless.

Based on what officers found, the two were each charged with Class B felony possession of methamphetamine and Class A misdemeanor possession of paraphernalia. Yoakum also faces a Class B felony dealing in meth charge.

The next day, Lafayette officers visited Room 78 at Economy Inn, where they arrested 32-year-old Joseph Gia of Brookston, who rented the room, and two guests — Jeremy Richardson, 27, of West Lafayette, and Desiree Davis, 26, who's homeless.

Each of the three defendants faces Class B felony meth possession and Class C felony illegal drug lab charges.

All five defendants remained in custody Friday at Tippecanoe County Jail.

Bond is set at \$5,000 cash each for Bernard-Yoakum, Richardson, Davis and Gia.

Yoakum, who was also arrested on a warrant, would have to pay \$12,000 cash.

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**May 8, 2014: WLFITV**

## **3 charged after meth found at Economy Inn**

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – Charges are filed against three people after prosecutors said they had meth inside a Lafayette motel room.

Jeremy Richardson, 28, Desiree Davis, 27, and Joseph Gia, 32, all face charges of possession of methamphetamine and illegal drugs.

As News 18 reported last week, police said they found a meth lab and items used to make meth in a room at the Economy Inn on Sagamore Parkway.

Court documents said the Indiana State Meth Lab Team was also called in to handle hazardous materials found in the room.

## **Cousins granted new counsel, says he is taking schizophrenia meds**

By Alexandra Kruczek / Krista Henery

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – Cody Cousins, the man accused of killing Purdue student Andrew Boldt, says that he has been prescribed medication for schizophrenia.

In court Thursday, Cousins said he has been taking Depakote to balance his mood.

Cousins will also have a new attorney.

Thursday was the second motion to withdraw Cody Cousins' counsel, attorney Robert Gevers. The first motion filed by Gevers to withdraw was submitted on Monday, April 21, 2014. The following day, an order denying the request was entered until a substitute attorney was chosen.

On Thursday, Cousins told the courtroom he no longer wanted Gevers to defend him. He explained he and Gevers had a conversation on April 7 at the jail, and after that conversation he no longer felt that he could trust Gevers.

Cousins would not comment further, other than he believed Gevers was motivated by financial gain.

The judge will now appoint a public defender to represent Cousins.

Cousins, 24, is being held in the Tippecanoe County jail without bond.

His trial date is set for Oct. 6, 2014.

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**May 7, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Cousins' attorney again tries to withdraw**

Ron Wilkins, [rwilkins@jconline.com](mailto:rwilkins@jconline.com)

Cody Cousins is persistent in his efforts to fire his attorney.

Cousins, 23, is facing a murder charge. He's accused of killing 21-year-old Purdue University student Andrew Boldt in the Electrical Engineering Building on Jan. 21.

His attorney, Robert W. Gevers II, filed a motion late last month to withdraw, but the motion was denied because it did not meet the state's criteria for counsel to withdraw from a case after a specific court administrative date.

Gevers filed a second motion a few days after Tippecanoe Superior 2 Judge Thomas Busch denied Gevers' first motion. In the second filing, Gevers stated, "... Mr. Cousins directly informed counsel that Mr. Cousins no longer desired counsel's representation, and the attorney-client relationship has become irreparably deteriorated as a result of such conversations and encounters."

That criteria fits one of the reasons for counsel to be granted permission to withdraw, which Busch cited in his order denying Gevers' first motion.

But before Busch rules on Gevers' second request, he set a hearing for 9 a.m. Thursday to vet Gevers' motion and hear from Cousins about his effort to drop Gevers' services.

Gevers was retained a day or two before Cousins' Jan. 23 initial hearing. He also represented Cousins at a March 7 pretrial hearing, during which Cousins' trial date was set for Oct. 6.

The Journal & Courier will cover Thursday's hearing, and a story will be filed at [jconline.com](http://jconline.com) shortly after it concludes.

**May 7, 2014: WLFI TV**

## **Two charged for meth at motel**

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – Two people face drug charges after prosecutors said they found evidence inside a West Lafayette hotel room.

Prosecutors said Belinda Bernard-Yoakum, 37, and Shawn Yoakum, 36, had meth in a room at the Prestige Inn last week. They said Belinda had a glass pipe outside when police arrived. She told police Shawn was inside with her two-year-old child.

Inside the bathroom, prosecutors said police found Shawn with 13 small baggies of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia. Officers said they found other paraphernalia in the room.

According to police, the child was asleep on the floor of the hotel room.

Both Belinda and Shawn face charges of dealing and possession of methamphetamine and possession of paraphernalia. Belinda also faces charges of maintaining a common nuisance and neglect of a dependent.

**May 7, 2014: TCPSN**

Belinda Dawn Bernard-Yoakum, 37, and Shawn Dwayne Yoakum, 36, of Lafayette, IN were charged today in Tippecanoe County with the following:

Belinda Dawn Bernard-Yoakum:

Count I: Possession of Methamphetamine within 1,000 feet of Prestige Inn, Richfield Apartments, Anthrop Point Apartment, Highland Apartments and The Fairway Apartments (B fel)

Count II: Possession of Paraphernalia (A misd)

Count III: Maintaining a Common Nuisance (D fel)

Count IV: Neglect of a Dependent (C fel)

Shawn Dwayne Yoakum:

Count I: Dealing in Methamphetamine (B fel)

Count II: Possession of Methamphetamine within 1,000 feet of Prestige Inn, Richfield Apartments, Anthrop Point Apartment, Highland Apartments and The Fairway Apartments (B fel)

Count III: Possession of Paraphernalia (A misd)

This case was investigated by the West Lafayette Police Department.

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**May 5, 2014: WLFI TV**

## **Man sentenced to 18 years in prison for 2012 bar fight**

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Chicago man is sentenced to eight years behind bars after pleading guilty to forgery and producing a false government ID.

Prosecutors said Jeffery Moon tried to use fraudulent checks at a Lafayette Rural King on Teal Road in August. They said he tried to use a forged Department of Defense ID card.

The checks were both for \$674.09.

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**May 2, 2014: TCPSN**

## **President of Rebel Cause Gang Sentenced to 19 Years Today in Tippecanoe County, IN**



Brent Anthony Dimmitt, 37, of Clarks Hill, Indiana was sentenced today to 19 years following a Tippecanoe County jury verdict of guilty on the following charges: Battery Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury (C fel), Battery (A misd) and Criminal Gang Activity (D fel) and the his guilty plea to Habitual Offender. Sentence breakdown: IDOC 18 years, Supervised Probation 1 year; DOC Programs: CLIFF Program and/or any other available substance abuse treatment; No Contact Order: no contact with either victim.

**May 2, 2014: TCPSN**

Alexander William Burns, 23, Schuyler Joseph Cross, 27, and Melissa Nicole Hayden, 20, of Lafayette, IN have been charged with the following in Tippecanoe County:

**Burns:**

Count I: Neglect of a Dependent (D fel); Count II: Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike (D fel); Count III: Dealing in a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike (D fel); Count IV: Possession of a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike (A misd); Count V: Maintaining a Common Nuisance (D fel)

**Cross:**

Count I: Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike (D fel); Count II: Dealing in a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike (D fel); Count III: Possession of a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike (A misd); Count IV: Maintaining a Common Nuisance (D fel)

**Hayden:**

Count I: Neglect of a Dependent (D fel); Count II: Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic

Drug Lookalike (D fel); Count III: Possession of a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike (A misd); Count IV: Maintaining a Common Nuisance (D fel)

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**April 30, 2014: TCPSN**

Andrea Lynn Bauer, 32, of Lafayette, IN was charged today in Tippecanoe County with: Count I: Dealing in Methamphetamine (B fel); Count II: Possession of Methamphetamine (D fel); Count III: Illegal Drug Lab (D fel); Count IV: Possession of Marijuana (A misd); and Count V: Operating Vehicle While Suspended (A misd).

**April 30, 2014: TCPSN**

Tramell Lawrence White, 24, of Lafayette IN was charged today with Count I: Possession of a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (B fel); Count II: Dealing in a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike (D fel); and Count III: Possession of a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike Substance (A misd) in Tippecanoe County.

**April 30, 2014: TCPSN**

Tiffany Rashell Burnside, 21, of Lafayette. IN was has been charged with Count I: Escape (C fel), Count II: Resisting Law Enforcement (A misd), Count III: Residential Entry (D fel), Count IV: Theft (D fel), and Count V: False Informing (A misd) in Tippecanoe County.

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**April 29, 2014: TCPSN**

Anthony Lewis Jordon, 23, has been charged the following in Tippecanoe County, IN:  
Count I: Dealing in Cocaine within 1,000 feet of Rail house Apartments, South Tipp Park, Bauer Community Center, Tippecanoe County Public Library (A fel)  
Count II: Possession of Cocaine within 1,000 feet of Rail house Apartments, South Tipp Park, Bauer Community Center, Tippecanoe County Public Library (B fel)  
Count III: Dealing in Cocaine within 1,000 feet of Rail house Apartments, South Tipp Park, Bauer Community Center, Tippecanoe County Public Library (A fel)  
Count IV: Possession of Cocaine within 1,000 feet of Rail house Apartments, South Tipp Park, Bauer Community Center, Tippecanoe County Public Library (B fel)  
Count V: Dealing in Cocaine within 1,000 feet of River Cross Apartments and St. James School (A fel)  
Count VI: Possession of Cocaine within 1,000 feet of River Cross Apartments and St. James School (B fel)  
This case was investigated by undercover officers and other officers working with the Drug Task Force.

**April 29, 2014: TCPSN**



Hakeem L. Evans, 18, of Lafayette was sentenced yesterday to 5 years for his guilty plea to Intimidation While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (C fel). The sentence breakdown is IDOC: 2 years, Supervised Probation: 3 years. Conditions / Programs / Special terms: Good and lawful behavior, Waiver of 4th amendment rights pertaining to search and seizure, Substance abuse evaluation and follow treatment recommendations, Nonviolent alternatives, Work toward earning GED.

**April 29, 2014: TCPSN**

Randy Lee Cheesman Jr, 20, and Juan Antonio Salazar Jr, 24, of Lafayette IN have been charged with the following in Tippecanoe County, IN:

Cheesman charges:

Count I: Conspiracy to Commit Burglary (B fel)

Count II: Burglary (B fel)

Count III: Theft (D fel)

County IV: Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor (A misd)

Salazar's charges:

Count I: Theft/Receiving Stolen Property (D fel)

This case was investigated by the Lafayette Police Department.

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**April 28, 2014: WLFI TV**

**Man gets jail time for forgery**



TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Chicago man is sentenced to eight years behind bars after pleading guilty to forgery and producing a false government ID.

Prosecutors said Jeffery Moon tried to use fraudulent checks at a Lafayette Rural King on Teal Road in August. They said he tried to use a forged Department of Defense ID card.

The checks were both for \$674.09.

**April 28, 2014: WLFI TV**

### **Lafayette man sentenced after burglary**



TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man gets a 12 year sentence after pleading guilty to burglary.

Prosecutors said 23-year-old Martell Williams went inside a couple's Lafayette home in September of last year. They said a woman was inside and saw Williams attempting to take a vase of change and a cellphone from a bedroom.

Officials said Williams ran from the home, but was later arrested on Sixth Street.

Williams is sentenced to four years behind bars and eight years on probation.

**April 28, 2014: WLFI TV**

### **No prescription for pills leads to charges**

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – Drug charges are filed against a Lafayette woman after prosecutors said she had prescription pills without a valid prescription.

Prosecutors said police spoke with the driver of the car Da'Shanna Johnson was riding in because he was wanted on felony charges. It happened Wednesday.

They said while police spoke with the driver, another officer smelled marijuana on Johnson. After a search, police found Adderall, a form of Xanax and amphetamines in her purse.

She faces two counts of possession of a controlled substance

## **Burglar gets four years in jail, eight on probation**

Steven Porter

A woman, alone in her living room one evening last September, thought she heard her husband return home, walk up the stairs and enter her bedroom.

She soon saw, however, that the man was actually 23-year-old Martell Williams of Lafayette, a burglar who exited the bedroom carrying a vase, loose change and a cellphone.

Williams, who dropped the vase and phone, then fled, when the woman yelled at him, pleaded guilty to Class B felony burglary, according to court documents. He was sentenced this week in Tippecanoe Circuit Court.

The judge found Williams guilty but noted a history of mental illness, including diagnosed depression and schizophrenia, as a mitigating factor.

Williams' high risk to reoffend, his history of illegal drug use, previous unsuccessful attempts at rehabilitation, use of an alias and criminal history, on the other hand, were deemed by the court as aggravating factors. Williams was convicted of criminal trespassing and resisting law enforcement last year and resisting law enforcement in 2012, plus two convictions in 2009.

The judge issued a 12-year sentence, which will include four years with the Indiana Department of Correction followed by eight years of probation.

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**April 23, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Accused Purdue shooter doesn't want a lawyer Cody Cousins told his attorney on April 7 that he no longer desired counsel's representation.**

Ron Wilkins, [rwilkins@jconline.com](mailto:rwilkins@jconline.com)

Suspected Purdue University shooter Cody Cousins doesn't want legal counsel, but he's going to get it.

Cousins, who is accused of killing a fellow engineering student, 21-year-old Andrew Boldt, in the Electrical Engineering Building, told his attorney on April 7 that he no longer desired counsel's representation, his attorney, Robert W. Gevers II, said in a motion to withdraw, filed Monday. Gevers has represented Cousins since the days following the Jan. 21 slaying.

But firing an attorney isn't that easy.

Tippecanoe Superior 2 Judge Thomas Busch denied Gevers' motion on Tuesday.

**April 22, 2014: TCPSN**

Sobhi Anwar Hindi, 24, Justin Layne Logsdon, 25, Randy Alan Long, 49, and Robert Charles McKendrie, 47, of Lafayette, IN have been charged with multiple drug offenses in Tippecanoe County.

**Sobhi Anwar Hindi – Charges:**

Count I: Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in Methamphetamine (B fel)  
Count II: Dealing in Methamphetamine (B fel)  
Count III: Possession of Methamphetamine (C fel)  
Count IV: Illegal Drug Lab (D fel)  
Count V: Possession of Paraphernalia (A misd)  
Count VI: Unlawful Sale of a Precursor (D fel)

**Justin Layne Logsdon – Charges:**

Count I: Possession of Methamphetamine (C fel)  
Count II: Count V: Possession of Paraphernalia (A misd)

**Randy Alan Long – Charges:**

Count I: Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in Methamphetamine (B fel)  
Count II: Dealing in Methamphetamine (B fel)  
Count III: Possession of Methamphetamine (C fel)  
Count IV: Illegal Drug Lab (D fel)  
Count V: Possession of Paraphernalia (A misd)

**Robert Charles McKendrie – Charges:**

Count I: Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in Methamphetamine (B fel)  
Count II: Dealing in Methamphetamine (B fel)  
Count III: Possession of Methamphetamine (C fel)  
Count IV: Illegal Drug Lab (D fel)  
Count V: Possession of Paraphernalia (A misd)  
Count VI: Habitual Substance Offender

This case was investigated by the Lafayette Police Department.

**April 21, 2014: TCPSN**

Alisa Jean Balser, 33, of Lafayette, IN has been charged with Count I: Dealing in Methamphetamine within 1,000 feet of Linnwood School and Park, Hanna Community Center and Hanna Park (A fel); Count II: Possession of Methamphetamine within 1,000 feet of Linnwood School and Park, Hanna Community Center and Hanna Park (B fel); Count III: Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin within 1,000 feet of Linnwood School and Park, Hanna Community Center and Hanna Park (A fel); Count IV: Possession of a Narcotic Drug – Heroin within 1,000 feet of Linnwood School and Park, Hanna Community Center and Hanna Park (B fel); Count V: Dealing in Methamphetamine (B fel); and Count VI: Possession of Methamphetamine (D fel) in Tippecanoe County.

This case was investigated by the officers of the Drug Task Force.

**April 21, 2014: TCPSN**

Corey Eldon Smith, 35, of Lafayette, IN has been charged with Count I: Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin within 1,000 feet on Linnwood School and Park (A fel); Count II: Possession of a Narcotic Drug – Heroin within 1,000 feet of Linnwood School and Park (B fel); Count III: Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (B felony); Possession of a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (D fel); Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin within 1,000 feet of Chapplegate Apartments,

Klondike Elementary/Middle School Properties (A fel); Possession of a Narcotic Drug – Heroin within 1,000 feet of Chapplegate Apartments, Klondike Elementary/Middle School Properties (B fel) Count VII: Dealing in Cocaine within 1,000 feet of Chapplegate Apartments, Klondike Elementary/Middle School Properties (A fel); and Possession of Cocaine within 1,000 feet of Chapplegate Apartments, and Klondike Elementary/Middle School Properties (B fel).

This case was investigated by officers from Lafayette Police Department and West Lafayette Police Department working on the TC Drug Task Force

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**April 17, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Lafayette molester to grow old in prison**



Dave Smith

A 34-year-old Lafayette man who pleaded guilty to rape and child molesting was sentenced Thursday to 42 years of prison, according to Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington.

Jeremy D. Stansberry was charged in Superior Court 1 with 16 counts that included rape, child molesting, sexual misconduct with a minor and attempted sexual misconduct. The alleged incidents occurred between January 2009 and August 2013 in the victim's home.

Stansberry pleaded guilty on March 20 to two counts: child molesting, a Class A felony, and rape, a Class B felony.

According to the probable cause affidavit, investigators in 2013 interviewed a 15-year-old girl who stated that Stansberry began touching her inappropriately five years previous and that he forced her to have sexual intercourse with him in 2013 on several occasions.

He was sentenced to 40 years for child molesting and 16 years for rape. The sentences are to be served consecutively. Moreover, the child molesting sentence will not be eligible for one day of credit for each day served, for a total time served of 42 years.

Harrington said Stansberry will be at least 76 when released from the Indiana Department of Correction. At that time he will be placed on four years of supervised probation.

**April 17, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Lafayette man gets 12 years for southside bank robbery**



A Lafayette man suspected of robbing a bank on Lafayette's south side last fall was sentenced Thursday to 12 years in prison.

Kenneth M. Wetterman, 49, pleaded guilty to one count of robbery and one count of being a habitual offender in the Oct. 18 robbery of Regions Bank on Teal Road.

According to the sentencing agreement, mental illness was a mitigating factor in the sentencing.

Investigators reported that Wetterman entered the bank about noon wearing a mask, hat and sunglasses. He demanded money and left with an undisclosed amount of cash.

Witnesses said he left in a silver Dodge pickup. They provided a license plate number, and a short time later, police stopped a vehicle matching that description and the license plate number at Virginia and 16th streets, a few blocks north of the bank.

He was arrested without incident. Police recovered money and gloves from the front seat of the truck and clothing matching the description of the robber in the truck bed.

No one was injured in the robbery, and no weapon was displayed.

According to Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington, Wetterman has a lengthy criminal history of arrests and/or convictions for theft, battery, escape, receiving stolen property, operating while intoxicated and escape.

A native of England, Wetterman had lived in Lafayette for about the past 8½ years, according to Harrington.

Under the sentencing agreement, Wetterman is considered guilty but mentally ill. The sentenced is to be executed in the Indiana Department of Correction.

**April 17, 2014: WLFI-TV**

## **Woman charged after dealing to undercover cops**

Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette woman faces felony charges after undercover officers said she dealt heroin near a school.

Bonny Ahlrich, 52, faces two felony charges of possessing and dealing heroin in January. Documents reveal Ahlrich was identified as a possible source of the drug by a confidential informant.

An undercover officer also said the deal leading to the charges was within 1,000 feet of Miller Elementary, the Bauer Community Center and South Tipp Park.

**April 17, 2014: WLFI-TV**

## **Cleaning lady sentenced after stealing from employer**



TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette cleaning lady nets a five year sentence after she stole more than \$1,000 from her employer.

Tamara Snell, 44, pleaded guilty in March to one count of forgery and one count of theft.

A woman who hired Snell to clean her house called police after three checks were stolen from her home and cashed. Prosecutors said the stolen funds amounted to more than \$1,000.

Security video from a credit union showed Snell cashing the checks.

Snell was sentenced Wednesday to two years of community corrections and three years supervised probation.

**April 17, 2014: WLFI-TV**

## **Man sentenced to half a century for rape, molesting**

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man was sentenced to more than 50 years in prison for child molesting and rape.

Jeremy Stansberry, 36, pleaded guilty to the charges in March. Prosecutor Pat Harrington said some of the charges date back more than three years.

Stansberry was sentenced to 52 years behind bars and 4 years of probation. He will not be eligible for parole until he is 76 years old.

**April 17, 2014: WLFI TV**

## **Lafayette man sentenced for Regions Bank robbery**

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man is sentenced to 12 years behind bars for robbing a bank in the fall.

Kenneth Wetterman, 49, pleaded guilty to one count of robbery and being a habitual offender.

As News 18 previously reported, the robbery happened at the Regions Bank on Teal Road. Witnesses told police a man wearing a white mask and baseball hat went inside the bank and demanded money.

Witnesses were able to get the license plate number of the man's car. Shortly after the robbery, police spotted a car with matching license plate numbers.

Police arrested Wetterman. According to prosecutors, once he was in custody police heard Wetterman say "it was me."

Wetterman was sentenced to 12 years in prison Thursday.

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**April 16, 2014: WLFI-TV**

## **Lafayette man faces charges after stabbing brother**

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man faces charges after prosecutors said he stabbed his brother multiple times in the face with a steak knife.

Khristopher Payne, 23, faces charges of battery and criminal recklessness. Prosecutors said one of Payne's siblings told police he exchanged words with one of his brothers before getting the knife and stabbing him in the face.

They said the victim and a juvenile who was in the room told police the same story.

Court documents reveal doctors used 11 stitches to close two stab wounds.

Prosecutors said Payne denied stabbing him, telling police his brother cut himself.

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**April 15, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Lafayette woman faces multiple drug charges**

Mikel Livingston, [mlivingston@jconline.com](mailto:mlivingston@jconline.com)

A Lafayette woman with a history of drug charges faces several more charges following an undercover investigation spanning several months.

Lena Gray, 47, on Tuesday was charged with seven counts, including three Class A felonies: dealing in cocaine and two charges of dealing in a narcotic drug.

She was also charged with possession of cocaine, a Class B felony, and the following Class C felonies: two charges of possession of a schedule III controlled substance and one charge of possession of a schedule IV controlled substance.

According to the affidavit of probable cause, the charges stem from the work of an undercover Lafayette police officer working with the help of a confidential informant.

On Nov. 12, 2013, the undercover officer was told by the informant that Gray could obtain cocaine. The officer made arrangements via the informant to meet Gray and purchase cocaine from her. The officer purchased a powdery substance that field-tested positive for cocaine.

Three days later, on Nov. 15, the informant told the officer that Gray was selling morphine and Norco tablets. The pair met Gray in the parking lot of a restaurant off Greenbush Street, where the officer purchased what was subsequently identified as morphine sulfate.

On Jan. 17, the officer contacted Gray to purchase more morphine tablets. Gray met the officer in a parking lot off Beck Lane but told the officer she had forgotten the tablets. The officer followed Gray to her home, where the transaction was completed.

On April 9, a Lafayette police officer initiated a traffic stop of a vehicle Gray was driving. During the stop, a K-9 officer arrived. The dog alerted the officers to the presence of narcotics in the vehicle.

A search turned up a bag of white residue. A plastic container with several types of pills was found in Gray's purse and a Suboxone strip was found in Gray's pocket.

Gray was convicted in 2006, 2004 and in 1999 on separate charges of acquisition of a controlled substance by fraud.

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**April 15, 2014: WLFI TV**

## **Lafayette woman faces drug-related charges**

Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette woman faces drug-related charges after prosecutors said she sold cocaine and morphine pills to an undercover officer.

Prosecutors said Lena Gray, 47, met with the officer twice in November of 2013 and once in January of this year.

Gray was stopped last week, according to prosecutors, and officers found prescription drugs for which Gray did not have a prescription.

Gray faces charges including dealing cocaine, dealing a narcotic drug and possession of a controlled substance.

**April 15, 2014: WLFI TV**

## **Five arrested in Lafayette meth lab bust**

Krista Henery

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – Five people were arrested Tuesday morning, after the Lafayette Police Department busted a “one pot” meth lab.

Officers responded to 3854 Daisy Drive at about 1:45 a.m., after they received a call about suspicious activity.

When officers arrived, they smelled a strong odor commonly associated with the manufacturing of methamphetamine. That is when they found an active “one pot” meth lab inside the home.

Officers arrested 49-year-old Randy Long, 47-year-old Robert McKendrie, 24-year-old Sobhi Hindi and 25-year-old Justin Layne Logsdon on preliminary charges of conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine.

Harvey Mossholder II, 25, was arrested for visiting a common nuisance.

The Indiana State Police Meth Suppression team was contacted, along with the Lafayette Fire Department.

**April 15, 2014: WLFI TV**

## **Man gets 10 years for drug charge**



Brittany Tyner

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man is sentenced to 10 years after pleading guilty to a drug charge.

Prosecutors said Matthew Shaw, 45, was stopped on Romig Street in Lafayette after he drove through a stop sign and turned without signaling last June. When Shaw was asked to get out of the car, a baggie with drugs fell on the ground. Prosecutors said Shaw admitted he bought heroin and was given cocaine during the deal.

Shaw was charged with two counts of possession of a narcotic and one count of maintaining a common nuisance. He pleaded guilty to one of the possession charges on a plea deal in January.

He was sentenced Monday to three years in prison, three years in community corrections and four years of probation.

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#### **April 14, 2014: TCPSN**

Matthew B. Shaw, 45, of Lafayette, IN was sentenced today to 10 years for his guilty plea to Possession of a Narcotic – Heroin (B fel). Sentence breakdown: IDOC 3 years, TCCC 3 years (DOC, if rejected from community corrections), Supervised Probation 2 years, Unsupervised Probation 2 years.

Conditions / Programs / Special terms: Waiver of 4th amendment rights pertaining to search and seizure; Submit to drug screens at request of the Court, law enforcement officers, or TCCC; Substance abuse evaluation and treatment; Payment of standard fees and \$100 public defender fee; Rules of TCCC incorporated as conditions of probation; 3 NA/AA meetings per week during TCCC and probationary periods; No alcohol and no controlled substances without prescription; Must advise all health care providers of addiction to heroin; The Court recommended that he receive substance abuse treatment while at the DOC.

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#### **April 10, 2014: WLFI TV**

### **Sanchez found guilty of voluntary manslaughter**



Alexandra Kruczek / Holly Campbell

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – As of late Thursday afternoon, the jury was sent into deliberation and came out with a verdict on the Tippecanoe County trial of 33-year-old Misael Sanchez.

Sanchez was found guilty of voluntary manslaughter, which has a sentence ranging from six to 20 years in prison. His sentencing is scheduled for next month.

Thursday morning, the jury finished watching a taped police interview where Sanchez explained how he got \$10,000 out of the bank, obtained important documents, picked up his children and tried fleeing to Mexico.

Testimony wrapped up around noon on Thursday. Closing arguments, which began at 1 p.m., concluded around 2:30 p.m.

The jury deliberated between two charges murder or voluntary manslaughter. About three hours later, the jury came to a decision. The jury found Sanchez guilty of voluntary manslaughter, which holds a lesser sentence time. If they would have found him guilty of murder, Sanchez would have faced 45 to 65 years behind bars.

#### STATE:

In the state's final argument, prosecutors said Sanchez threatened to kill Marisol Arze-Lujan. In his video interview, he said Arze-Lujan told him he "didn't have the balls to kill her." Prosecutors said the only reason she would respond with that is if Sanchez threatened to kill her.

Prosecutors also said sudden heat isn't a factor because the argument between Sanchez and Arze-Lujan was a routine argument between a couple.

In his statement, Sanchez said during the argument Arze-Lujan was mad because he had been out drinking the night before. He said she was telling him she was going to cheat on him again, but prosecutors said that's not true.

Prosecutors said it was impossible for her to be cheating because she shared a phone with Sanchez and didn't have time between work and her three children.

Prosecutors also said this didn't happen under sudden heat because he strangled her for 16 minutes and then made rational decisions — trying to not wake up the baby, being worried about the blood, and dressing her after she had died.

Prosecutors said bottom line, he told her he was going to kill her and he did it.

#### DEFENSE:

The defense said they are not trying to justify what he did. It was a crime. When it comes to the evidence the defense said everything Sanchez told police was consistent with the evidence.

The defense pointed out areas of areas of the investigation that may question the credibility of some of the testimonies. They also question the integrity of the case and asked the jury to evaluate those points as they consider the evidence and come up with a verdict.

When it comes to how long Sanchez choked Arze-Lujan, the defense said they know he said he did it for about 16 minutes, but they said that's just not possible to hold someone up by their neck when they are unconscious for that long.

He also pointed out that Detective Herb Robinson agreed that anger got the best of him the day he killed Arze-Lujan.

**April 10, 2014: WLFI TV**

### **Man sentenced to jail time for drug-related charges**



Spencer Frady

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A West Lafayette man gets an eight-year sentence for cocaine possession and dealing marijuana.

Prosecutors said Charles Simmons pleaded guilty to those charges as well as maintaining a common nuisance.

They say police went to Simmons' home last December after he reported being robbed. They say officers discovered Simmons had tried to sell marijuana earlier that night, but an argument broke out instead.

Prosecutors said police found marijuana, cocaine and paraphernalia in the home.

Simmons will spend three years behind bars and five on probation.

**April 10, 2014: WLFI TV**

## Homeless man sentenced for molestation



Spencer Frady

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A homeless man, who pleaded guilty to molesting two boys, will be 93 years old before he is eligible for parole.

Dan Huntress, 52, was convicted of two felony counts of child molesting. Court documents state he was staying with a co-worker last year when he molested two boys, ages 10 and 11.

Huntress's criminal history includes two sex crimes and alcohol violations.

He was sentenced to 52 years in prison Thursday

**April 10, 2014: WLFI TV**

## Testimony wraps up in Sanchez trial

Alexandra Kruczek / Holly Campbell

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – Day three continues in the Tippecanoe County trial of 33-year-old Misael Sanchez.

Thursday morning, the jury finished watching a taped police interview where Sanchez explained how he got \$10,000 out of the bank, obtained important documents, picked up his children and tried fleeing to Mexico.

Testimony wrapped up around noon Thursday. Final statements will begin around 1 p.m.

News 18's Holly Campbell will have the full recap with live reports from the Tippecanoe County Courthouse on News 18 at Five and Six.

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**April 9, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## Sanchez homicide trial: Family kept killing a secret; jury may get case Thursday

Ron Wilkins

Marisol Arze-Lujan most likely died from bleeding in the lining of the brain caused by being shaken while being strangled, forensic pathologist E. Allen Griggs testified Wednesday.

The person strangling Arze-Lujan was the father of her three children, Isael Sanchez, according to the prosecutor and Sanchez's attorneys.

“There was a large hemorrhage over the top of the brain. As a result of that, the brain had swollen,” Griggs said, indicating that this caused the 25-year-old woman’s death on March 21, 2013. “It (the hemorrhage) was large. It covered ... the entire top of the brain.”

Sanchez and Arze-Lujan argued inside their apartment in the 3700 block of McCarty Lane on the evening of March 20, 2013. Sanchez left that night to go drinking, and returned home drunk, Sanchez’s attorney and the deputy prosecutor said in Tuesday’s opening statements. The argument resumed the next morning, after the couple’s three children were out of the apartment on the way to school.

Neither the defense nor prosecutors disputed that Sanchez killed his girlfriend, and both sides appeared to agree on how. The question is whether Sanchez’s actions rise to the charge of murder, as the state charged, or whether he’s guilty of voluntary manslaughter, which is Sanchez’s attorney’s position. For jurors to convict Sanchez of voluntary manslaughter, the defense team will need to persuade them that Sanchez was provoked into a sudden rage, during which he snapped.

There were other signs of asphyxiation. Freckle-size bleeding in the neck, the lungs and her eyes all were signs that something or someone had cut off Arze-Lujan’s supply of oxygen, and the damage to her neck muscles, her thyroid and voicebox are common in strangulations, Griggs testified.

Additionally, her lungs had freckle-size bleeding spots and were hyperinflated, another sign of suffocation, Griggs said.

Sanchez is suspected of killing Arze-Lujan in the morning. About noon, Sanchez’s family and close friends gathered — a few apartments from where 25-year-old Arze-Lujan’s body lay slumped over a bathtub — to ask him what happened.

“He answered by crying,” Sanchez’s cousin, Israel Sanchez, testified Wednesday morning through an interpreter. “He didn’t answer. He just cried.”

The afternoon of the homicide, Sanchez withdrew \$10,000 from a bank account, withdrew his children early from school, then met with relatives and drove to Arkansas, where he was caught the next day.

During the morning testimony, prosecutors asked three witnesses, all Sanchez’s friends or family who were at that meeting, if they called police. None had.

After discovering Arze-Lujan’s body, police talked with several of Sanchez’s family members. None told police they were aware of the killing before police made the discovery late March 21, 2013, after one relative called to request that police check on Arze-Lujan’s well-being.

When the trial resumes Thursday morning, prosecutors will play a two-hour video of Sanchez a telling Lafayette police Detective Herb Robinson what happened and how he killed Arze-Lujan.

Defense attorney Matt Sandy told the court that the jury likely will be able to begin deliberations Thursday.

**April 9, 2014: WLFI TV**

## **Police interview shown in Sanchez trial**

Holly Campbell

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – Wednesday in the trial against 33-year-old Misael Sanchez, the jury heard from a lot of people including police officers, detectives and family members.

His cousins Javier and Israel Sanchez both took the stand.

Israel said he heard about Marisol Arze-Lujan's death through a phone call while he was at work. He said some of the family members organized a meeting at another family member's house later that day with Misael. Israel said when they asked Misael what happened he just cried and did not respond.

Javier said he went with Misael to Applied Ballistics to shoot guns the day before Javier found out Marisol was killed. Javier said he was not at the family meeting when they discussed Marisol's death, but showed up afterwards. He said Misael gave him money at that family meeting. Javier said he did not know where Misael was going after the meeting but assumed he was going to Mexico.

Crime scene investigators also took the stand today and walked the jury through the process they took in order to collect evidence from the apartment. Photos and videos from inside the apartment where Marisol's body was found were shown in court.

The jury also heard from Sanchez himself in a recorded police interview with Lafayette Police Detective Herb Robinson and an interpreter while Sanchez was in custody in Arkansas. In that interview, Robinson asked Sanchez why they were all there and Sanchez said it was because he killed his wife, referring to his girlfriend of 10 years Arze-Lujan.

In that video Sanchez described what happened the day he killed his girlfriend. He said she was mad at him because he has been drinking the night before. Sanchez said she started hitting him and yelling at him. That's when he said he grabbed her around the neck for several minutes until she was unresponsive.

The trial will continue Thursday morning.

**April 9, 2014: WLFI TV**

## **Traffic stop leads to drug-related charges**

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A traffic stop leads to drug-related charges for two Lafayette women.

Prosecutors said officers stopped Sherri Bucher, 50, and Amanda McLaughlin, 30, both of Lafayette on Morton Street Monday.

They said McLaughlin was taken into custody on warrants. Officers found on her person Adderall, Promethazine, a syringe and two pipes. Prosecutors say police found a substance that tested positive for methamphetamine in the car.

They said Bucher was placed in a squad car. Police then found four Adderall pills where she was sitting and what looked to be a crushed pill on the floorboard.

Bucher faces controlled substance and meth possession charges as well as maintaining a common nuisance and habitual substance offender charges.

McLaughlin faces possession of a controlled substance, syringe, legend drug and paraphernalia charges.

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**April 8, 2014: WLFI TV**

## **Trial begins for Lafayette man accused of murder**

Alexandra Kruczek / Holly Campbell

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – Jury selection is complete for the trial of a Lafayette man accused of murdering the mother of his children last year

Misael Sanchez, 33, is accused of murdering Marisol Arze-Lujan, 25, who was found dead in her Lafayette apartment on March 21, 2013. Jury selection completed at 1 p.m. Opening statements started around 2:30 Thursday afternoon.

In the opening statements, after sharing details about what they said happened the night of the murder, prosecutors asked the jury to return a guilty verdict for murder.

In the defense's opening statements Sanchez's attorneys said the evidence the state shows will show Sanchez killed Arze-Lujan. However, the defense attorney's said it happened under sudden heat. Sudden heat distinguishes the lesser charge of voluntary manslaughter from murder. Sudden heat is characterized by rage, terror or resentment that obscures the reason of an ordinary person.

The state must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the killing did not happen under sudden heat. If the jury finds it did happen under sudden heat, Sanchez will be found guilty of voluntary manslaughter and not murder.

After opening statements, the jury heard from the first officer on the scene and a detective working the case.

The officer said he went to the apartment complex to follow up a call of an injured woman inside one of the buildings. He said when he banged on the door it opened slightly. That's when he said he went inside the apartment to see if anyone was hurt. The officer said he found Arze-Lujan's body slouched over the bathtub.

The detective who took the stand Thursday afternoon explained how Sanchez was located in Arkansas. He said once officers got his cell phone number from neighbors and family members they were able to send out a signal to "ping" it. He said that the ping indicated Sanchez was in Arkansas. He was soon located along with his three children.

As News 18 previously reported, autopsy results show Arze-Lujan died from trauma to her brain. Police said they got a tip that Sanchez was responsible and had left the state.

Captain Kurt Wolf told News 18 in March 2013 that an investigation began into Sanchez immediately following the tip.

"We did some entry into the national crime computer that we were looking for the three children and him, and that's when they came across him in Arkansas," Wolf said.

Sanchez and the couple's three children were found in Clark County, Ark. He was later arrested on preliminary murder charges. His trial began in Tippecanoe County Tuesday.

Sanchez has been referred to as both Misael and Isael in court documents and in the courtroom.

**April 8, 2014: WLFI TV**

## **Nine more witnesses added in Cousins case**

Kyle Bloyd

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – Nine more people have been added to list of potential witnesses in the upcoming Cody Cousins trial.

Court documents filed Monday in Tippecanoe County listed nine more witnesses, which now lists over 100 people.

Prosecutors filed discovery papers in February, listing 126 potential witnesses, including Purdue students and police.

In March, the attorney for Cousins listed Ernest Cousins and Wendy Melancon, the parents of Cousins, as potential witnesses.

Also in the new documents, the state may offer the following as exhibits:

Writing assignments tendered by Cousins as class work

Emails written by Cousins

Forensic images of electronic media previously identified

Cousins is charged for the murder of Andrew Boldt on Purdue's campus in January. His trial is currently set to begin on Oct. 6.

Related Court Document Links:

Court documents show Nine more Witnesses Added to List

Prosecutors released the Defendant's Witness and Exhibit List

Prosecutors filed Discovery Papers listing 126 possible witnesses

Tippecanoe County unsealed search warrant records in the case, Search Warrant and Search Warrant Return

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**April 4, 2014: WLFI TV**

## **Jury finds Dimmitt guilty on 3 of 4 counts in 2012 bar fight**

By Alexandra Kruczek / Holly Campbell

TIPPECANOE CO, Ind. (WLFI) – A jury found Brent Dimmitt, 37, guilty of battery committed resulting in serious bodily injury, battery, and gang activity Friday in connection with a 2012 Lafayette bar fight which injured David Widner. He was found not guilty on a separate battery charge. The jury was unable to reach a verdict on the charge of aggravated battery. That charge was dismissed. After the verdicts were read, Dimmitt pleaded guilty to being a habitual offender.

A sentencing date will be scheduled on Monday. Prosecutors said Dimmitt faces 6-24 years in prison.

The jury deliberated for more than five hours after final arguments in the case wrapped up around 1:30 p.m. Friday.

Prosecutors argued that the Clarks Hill man is guilty of all five charges, including battery and battery resulting in serious bodily injury. The defense said that the witnesses' accounts were not consistent pinning Dimmitt as the person who injured Widner, thus not providing evidence that proved it beyond a reasonable doubt.

Over the course of the trial, the jury heard from several witnesses who were at the Champs bar the night of the fight. Widner also took the stand. He stated he remembers seeing Dimmitt's face right before he got punched.

Widner suffered a traumatic brain injury.

Dimmitt did not take the stand during the trial.

**April 4, 2014: WLFI TV**

## **Trial date set for man involved in fatal fire**

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – The trial date is set for a man accused of setting a fire that killed a 6-year-old girl in November.

Ryan Moynagh, 33, is scheduled to stand trial on Oct. 14, 2014. He faces felony charges, including murder and arson, in connection with a house fire that killed Katelyn Lane and injured David Trueblood, 53.

Prosecutors said Moynagh has admitted to setting two papers on fire with a lighter. Investigators identified three points of origin of the fire, including two in the bedroom where Katelyn was found.

On Wednesday, prosecutors announced their intention to seek a life sentence without parole.

A status hearing is set for July 14, 2014.

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**April 3, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Police: Landlord battered by tenant who was making meth**

Written by Chris Morisse Vizza

A Lafayette man is accused of dealing methamphetamine and battering his landlord after the landlord reportedly discovered the tenant making meth inside his rental property, according to documents filed in Tippecanoe Superior Court 1.

Daniel Ryan O'Harra, 32, faces four drug-related counts and one count of battery in relation to a March 29 incident at 1023 Hartford St.

Landlord Andy Tetzloff told police he went to do some work in the cellar and found the door unlocked and a light on.

Tetzloff said he walked in and saw several items on the floor; then O'Harra stepped from behind a water heater, holding a 2-liter bottle with liquid in it. Tetzloff told investigators he went to dial 911, and O'Harra knocked him down, injuring his knee, hand and shoulder.

O'Harra turned up later in the day when an acquaintance asked Lafayette police to remove O'Harra from the acquaintance's apartment.

The Indiana State Police Meth Suppression Team was called in, and found the 2-liter bottle, several chemicals and other materials used to manufacture the drug.

O'Harra has previous drug convictions, including a 2005 guilty plea to possessing methamphetamine and a 2010 guilty plea to possessing marijuana and criminal confinement, according to court records.

**April 3, 2014: WLFI TV**

## **Victim takes the stand in bar fight trial**

By Holly Campbell

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) - The court heard from David Widner Thursday. The man who was seriously injured in a 2012 bar fight took the stand.

Widner told the court that Brent Dimmitt, 37, was making fun of someone who was in his group while inside the bar. Widner then said that he and his group of friends decided to leave shortly after.

According to Widner, he walked out of the bar along with his friends and remembers Dimmitt was trying to pick a fight with him. Widner said he remembers seeing Dimmitt walk away, but then remembers seeing a glimpse of Dimmitt's face and felt a fist hit his face.

The next thing Widner remembered was waking up in the hospital. He said it was some time after the incident because he was no longer in ICU.

Widner's current condition was also discussed.

Widner said he has lost his sense of smell and most of his sense of taste. He said he has weakness in the left side of his body and short-term memory loss. Widner said he suffers from depression and anxiety and is unable to hold a job. He is still currently undergoing physical and occupational therapy.

Widner said his life has completely changed since his injury.

The court also heard from an investigator specializing in gangs. The investigator identified tattoos on Dimmitt's body that he said are associated with the gang Rebel Cause.

The trial is expected to wrap up Friday afternoon.

**April 3, 2014: Pharos-Tribune**

## **Prosecutors seek life in prison in arson death**

LAFAYETTE (AP) — Prosecutors are seeking life in prison without parole for a man accused of starting a central Indiana house fire that killed a 6-year-old girl.

Tippecanoe County prosecutors filed the request Wednesday, citing as aggravating factors that the death occurred during the commission of an arson and with a victim younger than age 12.

Thirty-three-year-old Ryan M. Moynagh faces a murder charge in the Nov. 9 death of Katelyn Sue Lane. He hasn't been tried or convicted in that case and faces a Friday status hearing.

The Journal & Courier reports Katelyn suffered third-degree burns and smoke inhalation following the fire at a house near Lafayette. She was later pronounced dead at a Lafayette hospital.

A message seeking comment from defense attorney Michael Trueblood wasn't immediately returned Thursday.

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**April 2, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Filing: Lafayette girl's death in arson justifies life behind bars**

Written by David Smith

A man accused of setting a fire that killed a 6-year-old Lafayette girl in November would face life without parole under a sentencing request filed Wednesday by the Tippecanoe County prosecutor.

Ryan M. Moynagh, 33, is accused of murder in the Nov. 9 death of Katelyn Sue Lane. He has not been tried or convicted. A status hearing on his case is scheduled for Friday morning in Tippecanoe Superior Court 1.

Prosecutor Pat Harrington filed the request for the sentence, citing two aggravating circumstances: the death occurred during the commission of the crime of arson, and the victim was less than 12 years of age.

According to court documents, firefighters responded to the house fire at 2726 Schuyler Ave. at 12:39 a.m. that November Saturday. When they arrived, they saw Moynagh standing in the front yard.

Another man, 53-year-old David Trueblood, with whom Moynagh lived, was found lying unconscious in the living room with a fire extinguisher next to his hand, according to police.

Police found Katelyn lying in a bed in the northwest bedroom. According to court documents, she suffered third-degree burns and smoke inhalation and died as a result of the fire.

Katelyn was taken to IU Health Arnett, where she was later pronounced dead. Trueblood was taken to St. Elizabeth East for burns and smoke inhalation and was released the next day.

Police said the girl's mother, Mindy Kirby, had left Katelyn in the care of Trueblood, a family friend, on Friday just hours before the fire.

Court documents do not cite a motive for Moynagh's alleged actions.

**April 2, 2014: WLFITV**

## **Cocaine dealer gets 30 years**



TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A man was sentenced to three decades behind bars after pleading guilty to dealing cocaine.

As News 18 previously reported, 29-year-old Antonio Tutson sold the drug to undercover officers three different times in December 2012 and January 2013.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Tutson pleaded guilty to dealing cocaine near a school, possession of a firearm by a serious violent felon and being a habitual substance offender.

Harrington said Tutson was sentenced to 30 years in prison and five years probation.

**April 2, 2014: WLFITV**

## **Court seeks life sentence for man involved in fatal fire**



By Brittany Tyner

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – The county prosecutor is seeking a life sentence without parole for a man accused of setting a fire that killed a six-year-old girl in November.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor said Ryan Moynagh, 33, faces felony charges. Those charges include murder and arson in connection with a house fire that killed Katelyn Lane and injured 53-year-old David Trueblood.

Harrington said Moynagh has admitted to setting two papers on fire with a lighter. Investigators identified three points of origin of the fire, including two in the bedroom where Katelyn was found.

Katelyn's mother Mindy Kirby told News 18 that nothing will ever bring her daughter back, but the decision to seek a life sentence is a step in the right direction.

**April 2, 2014: WLFITV**

## **Victim's friends, doctors take stand in bar fight trial**

By Alexandra Kruczek / Holly Campbell

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – More testimony from physicians filled the courtroom as the trial of 37-year-old Brent Dimmitt continued in Tippecanoe County Wednesday.

Doctors who treated the victim, David Widner, took the stand. They described his injuries as life threatening. Physicians confirm Widner had a skull fracture, hematoma and several other injuries.

Four people who were at the bar with Widner also took the stand Wednesday. All of the people told the court that Dimmitt approached them in the bar and showed them his tattoos and told them he was the president of a gang called Rebel Cause.

Each person who took that stand had a slightly different story about how a fight eventually broke out, but all identified Dimmitt as being involved. Two people said they saw Dimmitt kicking Widner while he was unconscious on the ground. Another person said he saw Dimmitt punching another person. Others said they could not see who was hitting Widner because the fight was so chaotic.

The trial will continue Thursday morning around 8:30.

## **Man who broke through WL liquor store roof sentenced**



TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – Duane Lowery, 34, was sentenced to four years in prison after breaking into a West Lafayette liquor store through the roof.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Lowery pleaded guilty to burglary.

As News 18 has already reported Lowery did thousands of dollars in damage when he entered the Village Bottle Shop on Howard Avenue through the ventilation unit in August. Police found Lowery leaving through the front door with several bottles of alcohol.

## **Bar fight suspect goes to trial**



By Alexandra Kruczek / Holly Campbell

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A jury trial has begun for a Clarks Hill man involved in fight outside a Lafayette bar that left one man in ICU.

Jury selection has been made Tuesday for Brent Dimmitt, 37, of Clarks Hill. After the selection the court heard testimony from an officer who responded to the fight.

According to court documents, Dimmitt was involved in a fight outside Champs Bar on Earl Avenue in Lafayette on Friday, Dec. 28, 2012. That fight landed another man in the hospital with multiple fractures to the skull and internal head injuries.

A witness told police Dimmitt approached the victim in the bar before attacking him in the parking lot.

Dimmitt was arrested following the incident in 2012. He was charged with battery and aggravated battery.

The trial is expected to wrap up by Friday.

## **Attempted robber near WLPD nets sentence of 25 years**



By Dan Klein

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man is sentenced to 25 years in prison after he tried to rob a West Lafayette business last spring and was caught near police headquarters.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington says 45-year-old Dwayne Hoard tried to rob The Sage's Shoppe on Sagamore Parkway on April 13, 2013 with a knife. But he ran off, when the owner yelled for other people — who were in the back of the store — to come help.

Hoard ran off without any money and was arrested minutes later in a nearby parking lot, near West Lafayette police headquarters.

He pleaded guilty in January to attempted armed robbery and being a habitual offender.

Hoard was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

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**March 28, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Man charged for child solicitation**

Written by Mikel Livingston

A Lafayette man has been charged with child solicitation after allegedly attempting to arrange a sexual encounter with who he thought was a 14-year-old girl that he met online.

Christopher K. Reese, 23, has been charged with child solicitation, a Class C felony, and possession of marijuana, a Class A misdemeanor.

According to the affidavit of probable cause filed Friday by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office, Reese earlier this month posted an Internet advertisement stating "sexy young hung male looking for a female who loves popping pills and wants to get me some head."

Lafayette Police Sgt. Brian Gossard responded to the advertisement. The two conversed several times via email between March 23 and 26.

On March 23, during the course of those emails, Gossard stated he was a 14-year-old girl.

Reese allegedly responded, "Wow, you are really young."

The conversations continued, the affidavit says, with Reese making several explicit sexual advances toward the “girl.” At one point, Reese allegedly sent a photograph of a man’s erect penis.

About 9:30 a.m. March 26, the two arranged to meet at a Big Lots on Teal Road. Reese said he would be driving a silver Expedition.

At 10:15 a.m., Detective Natalie Lovett of the Lafayette Police Department saw a vehicle matching that description pull into the Big Lots parking lot. Lafayette Police Officer Charlie Williams then made contact with the driver, who identified himself as Christopher Reese.

According to the affidavit, Reese “admitted that he was in the parking lot off Teal Road to meet a female that he initially met on the Internet, and that he was going to hang out and smoke some marijuana with the female. Reese denied knowing how old the female was, but indicated that he doesn’t usually check ages when replying to the emails that he gets.”

Police searched Reese’s vehicle, discovering a cigarette pack containing a joint that a field test showed was marijuana. Police secured the joint, along with an HP laptop found inside the vehicle.

Reese is being held in the Tippecanoe County Jail on a \$5,000 surety and \$500 cash bond.

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**March 24, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Molester of 7-year-old girl gets 30-year sentence**

Written by Ron Wilkins

Fifty-one-year-old Cornellious Brown received a 30-year sentence Monday for molesting a 7-year-old girl.

Brown, who has lived in Lafayette for about two years, recently pleaded guilty to a Class A felony charge of child molesting. With Brown’s prior convictions from Cook County, Ill., of battery, possession of a controlled substance, domestic battery, battery and retail theft, there were no mitigators found to possibly suspend part of Brown’s sentence, according to a sentencing brief.

Additionally, he violated a position of trust when he molested the child.

Brown will have to serve 85 percent of the 30 year sentence — more than 25 years — before he can become eligible for parole, instead of the one-day credit for each day incarcerated, according to the sentencing brief. He will be 76 years old when he becomes eligible for release.

**March 24, 2014: WLFITV**

## **Man sentenced for child molesting**



By Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A man will spend decades behind bars after pleading guilty to child molesting last month.

Cornellious Brown, 51, currently of Lafayette was sentenced to 30 years in prison. Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Brown tried to have sex with an 8-year-old girl multiple times, the most recent incident being in May 2013.

During interviews, the girl was able to identify Brown for police.

Harrington said Brown initially denied the allegations, but later admitted to several inappropriate interactions with the girl.

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**March 21, 2014: WLFITV**

## **Lafayette man charged in three armed robberies**

By Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man faces multiple criminal charges in connection to three Lafayette armed robberies.

Prosecutors said Ronald Longer, 19, faces six felonies and a misdemeanor, including three counts of robbery while armed with a deadly weapon and three counts of theft.

As News 18 reported Thursday, police were called to two armed robberies within fifteen minutes of each other. The first robbery occurred at the BP gas station, at Teal Road and 22nd Street, and the second at the Circle K gas station, at Ferry Street and Earl Avenue.

Longer was arrested during a traffic stop shortly following the second robbery. He was taken to Tippecanoe County Jail.

Longer admitted to both robberies, as well as last week's Village Pantry robbery at Brady Lane and 18th Street, according to court documents.

**March 21, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Case against pastor charged with spying on women's restroom will go forward High court exploitation ruling may speed case against Lafayette pastor**

Written By David Smith

The pending criminal case against a former Lafayette pastor accused of hiding video cameras in a women's restroom may proceed now that the Indiana Supreme Court has issued a ruling in a separate case.

Robert Lyzenga, former pastor of Sunrise Christian Reformed Church in Lafayette, is charged in Tippecanoe Superior Court 1 with five counts of child exploitation, a Class C felony, and five counts of voyeurism by means of a camera, a Class D felony. He was arrested May 10, 2012, suspended from church duties and later fired.

Each count represents a different alleged victim: five female juveniles, ages 5 to 16, and five women. Child exploitation is the more serious of the charges, being a Class C felony. Voyeurism is a Class D felony.

Lyzenga is due for trial June 3. The trial date has been continued several times while both sides awaited a Supreme Court ruling in State v. David Delagrang, a Fort Wayne man accused of sexually exploiting girls by taking upskirt videos at Castleton Square Mall in Indianapolis.

In that case, a divided appellate court set aside Delagrang's lower court conviction of attempted child exploitation on grounds the victims' genitals were never exposed.

The lower court ruled 2-1 that "... in order for Delagrang's attempt to commit child exploitation, each child must have been exhibiting her uncovered genitals with the intent to satisfy sexual desires."

In its unanimous ruling, issued Tuesday, the high court overturned the appellate court's decision. The high court said, in essence, that jurors could reasonably infer that capturing images of the victims' exposed genital areas was the defendant's intent, whether the genitals were exposed or not, therefore constituting "attempted" child exploitation.

"... Can a jury infer that someone taking upskirt photographs of women and girls by means of a concealed shoe camera does so in the hope that some of them will not be wearing undergarments? We say yes."

In Lyzenga's case, Lafayette attorney Kent Moore sought to have the charges of child exploitation dismissed, citing the appellate court's ruling in Delagrang.

Tippecanoe Superior Court 1 Judge Randy Williams denied Moore's motion.

In his ruling Williams said, "The defendant argues, in part, that the victims lacked knowledge that a hidden camera was photographing them and that the child exploitation statute requires that the child be exhibiting his or her uncovered genitals with the intent to satisfy sexual desires."

While the high court opinion didn't directly address that line of reasoning, the justices sided with dissenting Appeals Judge Edward Najam Jr., who noted that his colleague's interpretation undermined the goal of the statute, "which is to criminalize the exploitation of child victims."

'Definite guidance'

Rather than file an appeal of Williams' decision, Moore has been waiting to see what the Supreme Court decided in the Delagrang case.

Moore said Thursday that he's not yet had a chance to discuss the Supreme Court's ruling with his client.

While there are many differences between the Delagrang case and the case against Lyzenga, the appellate court's ruling cast considerable doubt as to the standard interpretation of the exploitation statute up to that point, Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Thursday.

"Delagrang was the first time the appellate court interpreted the statute in that manner," Harrington said. "What the Supreme Court did, they reaffirmed ... the intent of that statute.

"We now have definite guidance by the Supreme Court, so we can proceed with our case."

The charges against Lyzenga stemmed from an investigation that began on April 22, 2012, when a church member called the Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Office to report finding a camera inside an air freshener that had fallen inside a restroom stall.

Detectives obtained images that included two women and a minor female using the restroom, along with images of a church office that Lyzenga had been using.

That led to a search of Lyzenga's home, where detectives said they found more videos and photo stills from the videos on a laptop and external hard drives, according to the affidavit of probable cause.

**March 21, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Robbery suspect faces 6 felonies, claims crack addiction**

Written By Ron Wilkins

Nineteen-year-old Ronald L. Longer of Lafayette robbed two gas stations Thursday and a Village Pantry on March 14 to feed his crack cocaine addiction, according to a probable cause affidavit filed Friday.

Longer is charged in Tippecanoe Superior 1 with three counts of armed robbery, Class B felonies; three counts of theft, Class D felonies; and one count of carrying a handgun without being licensed, a Class A misdemeanor.

Police responding to a second robbery early Thursday noticed Longer matched the description of the suspect, Lafayette police said. They stopped and arrested Longer early Thursday on Douglas Street just south of South Street, according to police.

When police asked him why he robbed the two gas stations, he said he was addicted to crack cocaine, according to the affidavit.

Longer told police he robbed the BP/Amoco station at 2210 Teal Road about 3:25 a.m. Thursday, and he then robbed the Circle K gas station at Ferry Street and Earl Avenue about 20 minutes later, according to the probable cause affidavit. He also admitted to robbing the Village Pantry at 18th and Brady Lane about 1:05 a.m. March 14.

Longer knew details about the robberies, and clerks from Thursday morning's robberies identified Longer as the man who robbed them at gunpoint, according to the affidavit.

According to police, Longer is on probation out of Vermilion County, Ill., for reckless discharge of a firearm in March 2013.

**March 21, 2014: WLFITV**

## **Drug charges filed against Lafayette man**

By Spencer Frady

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – A traffic stop in Lafayette ended with drug-related charges for the man behind the wheel.

In December of 2013, prosecutors said Jeremy Little, 37, of Lafayette was stopped on Adams Street after making several turns without using signals or headlights.

According to court documents, police smelled marijuana or the synthetic drug "spice" after approaching the car. Prosecutors said Little admitted to police that he had smoked a "joint."

Police then obtained a search warrant for the vehicle and found amphetamines and more than 160 grams of "spice."

Prosecutors said police also found that Little's license had been revoked in 2000.

Little is now facing charges including dealing and possession of a synthetic drug, possession of a schedule II controlled substance and operating a vehicle after driving privileges were forfeited for life.

**March 21, 2014: WLFITV**

## **Florida man charged after stealing items from WL hotel**

By Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Florida man has been charged with multiple felonies after police said he stole items from the Hilton Garden Inn in Lafayette.

According to court documents, officers responded to the Hilton Garden Inn on E. State Street in West Lafayette Tuesday in reference to a smoke alarm. Officers went to the sixth floor on a report of a “smell of fire.” Due to standing water, the room was quickly located.

Officers entered the room to find Christopher Grooms, 30, of Florida exiting the room with his belongings. Officers found a broken sprinkler head in the room.

The hotel manager, Christy Kuntz, advised police that Grooms had previously checked into a different room. However, he was moved to a second room after “he complained that several items were missing” from the first room. Kuntz said there was significant damage to the hotel as a result of the sprinkler system being activated.

Officers spoke with Grooms outside the hotel. Upon further investigation of his belongings, officers located several items that belonged to the hotel, including a pillow, blanket and coffee maker. Grooms was arrested for theft at that time.

In addition to hotel-owned items, officers said they found two glass pipes, a bag of marijuana, a loaded silver and black Smith and Wesson revolver and more rounds of ammunition.

Grooms was transported to Tippecanoe County Jail for possession of a handgun without a permit, theft, possession of stolen property and possession charges for marijuana and paraphernalia.

**March 21, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Woman seen staggering down road faces drug charges**

A woman who police say was staggering as she walked in the driving lanes of Main Street in Dayton faces four felony drug charges in Tippecanoe Circuit Court.

Amber N. Bonty, 25, of Evansville is charged with possession of methamphetamine, a Class B felony; possession of a schedule III controlled substance, a Class C felony; and two counts of possession of a schedule IV controlled substance, Class C felonies.

Sheriff's Deputy Ron Hainje on March 15 saw Bonty and a man walking in both lanes of Main Street, and Bonty appeared to fall down at times, according to court documents.

Another deputy and a Dayton police officer arrived, and questioned the two.

Court records state Bonty consented to allow a deputy to look through her purse, where the officer found a coin purse with individually wrapped baggies containing substances that tested positive for methamphetamine.

Her purse also contained several types of pills which were later identified as hydrocodone, clonazepam and Xanax, according to court documents.

The officers said Bonty was within 1,000 feet of Dayton Elementary School, and children were present at the time, which increases the severity of the crime.

She also faces misdemeanor counts of possession of marijuana and public intoxication.

Bonty is being held in Tippecanoe County Jail, where bond is set at \$12,500 surety or \$1,250 cash.

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**March 17, 2014: WLFITV**

## **Man gets prison time for meth possession**



TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man is sentenced to two years in prison and two years community corrections for possessing methamphetamine.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Joshua Duncan, 25, pleaded guilty to several charges including meth possession and being a habitual substance offender.

Harrington said police arrested Duncan last April after receiving a report of someone trying to make meth on McCarty Lane. Police found Duncan with baggies of meth and spice.

At that time, News 18 reported Duncan admitted he'd been smoking the meth with a couple other people.

**March 17, 2014: WLFITV**

## **Men sentenced for gas station burglaries**



TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A man is sentenced to four years in prison for his role in a West Lafayette gas station burglary last summer.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Len Myers, 23, pleaded guilty to six charges, including two counts of burglary, two counts of theft and being a habitual offender.

Last July, Harrington said Myers and Trevor Slone worked together to steal money from the GoLo gas station on Northwestern Avenue in West Lafayette. Harrington said Myers also admitted he acted alone during a burglary at the same gas station last April.

Myers was also sentenced to two years of community corrections and six years probation.

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**March 14, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Shots lead to criminal recklessness charge**

Written by Ron Wilkins and Emily Campion

Patrick L. Young fired off several shots from a gun in his southside neighborhood Thursday afternoon, which put school bus drivers briefly on alert and landed Young in jail a short time later.

Police received a report of several shots fired in the area of Regal Valley Court and Kyverdale Drive around 2:40 p.m. Thursday.

After talking with neighbors, officers spoke with Young, 40, who lives on Regal Valley Court.

They arrested Young on a preliminary charge of criminal recklessness with a deadly weapon, a Class D felony. Police removed several weapons from Young's house.

Young posted a \$500 cash bond and was released from the Tippecanoe County Jail later Thursday, according to jail records.

During the incident, police alerted Tippecanoe School Corp. officials because school buses were transporting students. Police asked corporation officials to not allow children off the bus in the vicinity of the shots fired.

However, no students had to be detained on the bus, according to Sue Scott, communications coordinator for the school system.

"Those were our high school routes, and no kids lived in that area or were dropped off," she said. "Police advised us just in case. By the time our elementary buses were ready to run, the situation had been cleared."

**March 14, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Felony charges filed in wake of crash that killed passenger**

Written by Emily Campion

Jerry Arnold Ford, 29, of Lafayette faces a slew of charges, including operating while intoxicated with a controlled substance in his blood causing death, a Class B felony, for a one-vehicle accident the morning of Sept. 15 on Valley Street.

According to court documents, Ford was driving Roxie Johnson's car, a white Ford Mustang, when he drove off the road and hit a tree. Police found Johnson in the back seat of the car with Kastin Slaybaugh.

Ford initially told police that Johnson was driving and went off the road and crashed, but Johnson was the only person with injuries, and most of the car's damage was to the passenger side. Johnson was pronounced dead at a hospital.

Police found evidence inconsistent with Ford's story. Ford admitted that Johnson had been driving at first, but began to "nod off," so he took over. Slaybaugh was in the back seat. Ford also admitted to using methamphetamine two days before, which drug tests confirmed.

Ford's criminal history includes possession of methamphetamine, forgery, operating while never receiving a license, and theft.

Ford was charged Thursday in Tippecanoe Superior Court 2. In addition to the Class B felony, he was charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated causing death, a Class C felony; operating a motor vehicle while suspended resulting in death, a Class C felony; and was deemed a habitual offender.

Ford stayed in Tippecanoe County Jail for two days after the accident. He bonded out for \$2,500.

**March 14, 2014: WLFITV**

### **Man gets prison time for meth possession**



TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man is sentenced to two years in prison and two years Community Corrections for possessing methamphetamine.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Joshua Duncan, 25, pleaded guilty to several charges including meth possession and being a habitual substance offender.

Harrington said police arrested Duncan last April after receiving a report of someone trying to make meth on McCarty Lane. Police found Duncan with baggies of meth and spice.

At the time, News 18 reported Duncan admitted he'd been smoking the meth with a couple other people.

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**March 12, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

### **Battery charges lead to 5-year sentence**

Kevin Ray Trueblood II, 23, of Fort Myers, Fla., faces five years with the Indiana Department of Correction for battery resulting in serious bodily injury.

Trueblood and his wife, were staying at someone's home on South Fourth Street on Aug. 19 because he was homeless. About 8 a.m. the man who allowed him to stay at the house asked Trueblood to leave. Trueblood hit the man in the face, causing fractures that required surgery.

Trueblood admitted to police that he punched the man in the face. Trueblood's criminal history includes receiving stolen property and false informing.

Trueblood will spend five years with the Department of Correction and one year with Tippecanoe County Community Corrections, if he is accepted. The court also ordered \$1,991.52 in restitution for medical expenses.

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**March 11, 2014: WLFITV**

## **Man stealing pills as homeowner returns gets 14-year sentence**



By Dan Klein

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – Shavon King, 27, of Lafayette was sentenced Tuesday to 12 years in prison for stealing pills from a Lafayette house as the resident returned home.

King pleaded guilty last month to charges of burglary, narcotic possession and being a habitual substance offender.

As News 18 already reported in October, a resident on N. 10th Street came home, heard someone inside the house and then saw King run out the front door. King was caught several blocks away with six bottles of stolen pills in his possession.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said in addition to 12 years in prison, King was sentenced to two years of probation.

**March 11, 2014: WLFITV**

## **Man sentenced to 6 years for battery**



By Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A six year sentence is ordered for a man who punched another in the face which caused serious injury.

Kevin Trueblood II, 23, pleaded guilty to one count of battery causing serious bodily injury.

Prosecutors said Trueblood, who was homeless at the time, stayed the night at a Lafayette home in August of last year. They said when one of the people living there asked him to leave the next morning, Trueblood got angry, threw a punch and caused jaw fractures that required surgery.

Trueblood was sentenced to six years in the Department of Corrections and possibly, if approved, one year in Tippecanoe County Community Corrections. He was also ordered to pay close to \$2,000 in restitution for medical expenses.

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**March 7, 2014: WLFITV**

## **High profile forensic psychiatrist may take stand in Cousins case**

By Holly Campbell

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) - A forensic psychiatrist known for his work in many high profile murder cases may take the stand in the murder trial of Cody Cousins.

Dr. Phillip Resnick has worked on cases against Jeffery Dahmer, Timothy McVeigh, Andrea Yates, Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski, Casey Anthony and Scott Peterson.

Resnick is a Professor of Psychiatry and the Director of the Division of Forensic Psychiatry for Case Western Reserve University's School of Medicine.

Cousins' attorney Robert Gevers also listed Cousins' parents Wendy Melancon and Ernest Cousins on a list of potential witnesses and exhibits.

Cousins, 24, is being held without bond in the fatal shooting of another Purdue student on campus in January.

Cousins has a jury trial set for October 6th.

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**March 6, 2014: WLFITV**

## **Lafayette man sentenced for GoLo burglary**



By Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man gets a two-year sentence for his involvement with a burglary at a Lafayette gas station last July.

Prosecutors said Trevor Slone pleaded guilty one count of conspiracy to commit burglary. They said Slone and another man planned to rob the Northwestern Avenue GoLo gas station where Slone worked as the night clerk.

Prosecutors said Slone admitted providing information about night deposit procedures and acted as a look-out during the burglary.

Slone will spend six months in Tippecanoe County Community Corrections, 18 months on probation, and work 136 hours of community service. He must also pay more than \$1,000 in restitution.

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**March 5, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Lafayette man, 20, charged in connection to recent stabbing on Schuyler Avenue**

By Emily Campion

Diunte Lamont Moon, 20, of Lafayette was charged Wednesday with battery and criminal recklessness in connection with a Feb. 26 stabbing on Schuyler Avenue.

Frank Marshall, 25, suffered a stab wound to his chest and a cut on his hand after Moon tackled him in the doorway of his apartment in the heat of a complaint about noise, according to court documents.

Moon had complained once to the apartment complex's landlord about the level of noise coming from next door, where Marshall was visiting a friend.

Moon consulted the landlord a second time and told the landlord to call police because he was going to fight Marshall. One of Marshall's friends told police he saw Moon holding a knife and walking toward Marshall, who was outside the apartment, before Moon tackled Marshall.

Marshall was transported to St. Elizabeth Central hospital and was released the same day. Moon was taken to Tippecanoe County Jail, where he is being held on \$12,500 surety and \$1,250 cash bond. He faces one count of battery with a deadly weapon, a Class C felony; one count of criminal recklessness while armed with a deadly weapon, a Class D felony; and battery, a Class A misdemeanor.

**March 5, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Police, not 14-year-old, meet up with man, 54; child solicitation charges filed**

By Emily Campion

David G. Hall, 54, of Lafayette was charged Wednesday with child solicitation using a computer, a Class C felony, after an undercover investigation led police to Hall.

Hall had put an advertisement online looking for "a young guy." Undercover police responded, posing as a 14-year-old, and their conversation became increasingly sexual in a matter of days, according to court documents.

Hall made plans to meet with the alleged 14-year-old Tuesday afternoon. He was met by police. Hall admitted to agreeing to meet with a 14-year-old for a sexual encounter and that he knew it was wrong to do so, according to court documents.

Hall is being held in Tippecanoe County Jail under a \$5,000 surety and \$500 cash bond.

**March 5, 2014: WLFITV**

## **Woman charged for using another's credit card**

By Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Linden woman faces charges after prosecutors say she spent more than \$2,000 on a stolen credit card.

Prosecutors said Kelli Cooksey, 30, took card after it was left in the store she was employed at within the Tippecanoe Mall last December. They said Cooksey made purchases at Hobby Lobby, Olive Garden, Wal-Mart and other stores in the Tippecanoe Mall.

Prosecutors said Cooksey admitted using the stolen card for those purchases.

Cooksey faces charges of forgery, theft and fraud.

**March 5, 2014: WLFITV**

## **Lafayette man charged after Schuyler Ave. stabbing**

By Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – Charges are filed against a Lafayette man after prosecutors said he stabbed a man for being too loud at an apartment complex.

Prosecutors said on Wednesday, Feb. 26 Diante Moon, 20, stabbed a man in the chest and hand after an argument at an apartment complex on the 1500 block of Schuyler Avenue in Lafayette.

Police said the property manager told officers that Moon was arguing with his neighbors. He told the manager to call police, because he was going to fight people in the apartment next to him. Moon then left the complex's office.

The victim Frank Marshall, 25, was outside a friend's apartment as Moon exited the office. Witnesses said as Marshall was trying to get back inside, he was tackled to the ground by Moon and stabbed. Police said another man forced Moon out of the apartment and locked the door before calling police.

Marshall was transported to St. Elizabeth Hospital and has since been released.

Moon faces charges of battery by means of a deadly weapon, a Class C Felony, and criminal recklessness while armed with a deadly weapon, a Class D Felony.

**March 5, 2014: WLFITV**

## **Lafayette woman charged for selling drugs to undercover cop**

By Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – Charges are filed against a Lafayette woman who prosecutors said sold cocaine and heroin to an undercover police officer.

Prosecutors said Deborah Reagin, 54, met with the undercover officer in October 2013 and sold cocaine. In December 2013, they said she sold heroin to the undercover officer.

Reagin faces charges including dealing and possession of cocaine, and dealing a narcotic drug.

According to court documents, Reagin has a lengthy prior criminal history. Currently, she has pending charges for possession of a legend drug, intimidation, theft and habitual substance offender.

In November 2003, Reagin was convicted of conspiracy to commit dealing meth and habitual substance offender. She was convicted of two counts of forgery and attempted acquisition of a controlled substance in June 1993. She has three operating while intoxicated charges, one from 1990 and two from 1995.

Reagin also has prior convictions for theft and habitual offender from October 1999 under a different name.

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**March 4, 2014: WLFITV**

## **Horton charged after helping inmate escape**

By Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – Charges have been filed against a man police said helped a Warren County inmate escape last fall.

Danny Horton, 45, was arrested in Lafayette Tuesday, Feb. 25 by U.S. Marshals. He had been wanted on warrants for parole violations, as well as warrants in Warren County for two meth-related charges.

Horton is now charged with possession of a firearm by a serious violent felon, and marijuana and paraphernalia possession.

**February 28, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Grade-altering scheme sends ex-Purdue student to jail 2nd student sentenced for hacking professors' computers**

Written by Ron Wilkins

Deputies led 25-year-old Roy Sun out of Tippecanoe Superior Court 2 with his hands cuffed behind his back Thursday afternoon and took him to jail to begin serving 90 days of his four-year prison sentence for changing his undergraduate grades.

It's quite a fall for Sun, who earned more than \$70,000 in his first year after college working as an engineer.

After two years in a well-paying job, Sun went back to college in his native Massachusetts for a master's degree, until it became public that he had changed his grades at Purdue University and was facing felony computer tampering charges.

He lost his bachelor's degree, got kicked out of Boston University, was arrested and booked into jail. He's been working as a part-time busboy, earning about \$1,500 last year.

After 90 days in jail, he'll spend the balance of a four-year sentence on supervised probation.

The depth of Sun's academic deception and was on full display Thursday during his sentencing hearing.

Sun first hacked into a professor's computer account and changed his grade in 2008. He said he volunteered to be the guinea pig to see if he and fellow Purdue student Mitsutoashi Shirasaki would get caught. They didn't, which emboldened Sun.

"When I came back in 2009, I felt really arrogant," he said during the sentencing hearing. "I thought I was untouchable.

"It became so much easier to change my grades than going to class and working real hard."

So with the exception of one course, Sun quit attending classes his senior year and still received straight A's.

The class he actually attended was small and had weekly one-on-one meetings with the professor, Sun said. He earned an honest A and received an award for best student in that class, Sun said when asked by his attorney, Michael Troemel, how he did in that class.

Sun explained how he and Shirasaki had perfected a system of hacking into professors' accounts about 10 minutes before the professors' deadline to submit final grades for the semester.

They knew the deadline because they had hacked the professors' accounts, and the deadline was generally late at night, Sun said, and was not a time that a professor would likely catch them. They changed Sun and Shirasaki's grades, and later changed one grade for their friend, Sujay Sharma, who was not aware of their intervention, Sun said.

Sharma received 18 months of probation for serving as a lookout while Sun and Shirasaki broke into professors' offices to either plant or retrieve a keystroke recording device, which they used to learn passwords.

Initially, they planted the keystroke recorder on computers that professors used in the classrooms, but professors who used a blackboard instead of computers required the duo to take more drastic actions, Sun said.

Sun and Sharma pleaded guilty Dec. 30. Sun pleaded guilty to two counts of computer tampering and one count of conspiracy to commit computer tampering, all Class D felonies. Sharma pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit computer tampering.

Sun admitted to being the mastermind behind the plot, saying he had the understanding, expertise and equipment needed to gather passwords and hack into professors' accounts, which gave them access to professors' personal information that could have been used for identity theft. Some of the professors, Deputy Prosecutor Brian Johnson said, might have had classified national defense information because of Department of Defense research contracts.

Sun also said he told Shirasaki to leave the country and return to his native Japan, where Shirasaki remains today.

"If no one tells you you can't leave, you're free to leave," Sun said he told Shirasaki.

Before sentencing, Judge Thomas Busch said, "The most troubling thing about this is how brilliant you are and how capable you are to devise this and carry it out. ... I worry about people who are as bright as you who are as dishonest as you because you can do more damage."

Troemel painted a picture that Sun's future is bleak. He's not able to get into an accredited university to honestly earn a bachelor's degree, he's dishonored himself and embarrassed his family, and his job prospects are limited to minimum-wage jobs.

Busch disagreed.

"I don't think that your future is hopeless," Busch said before handing down the sentence. "I think you have the opportunity to rebuild your life and make your parents proud of you."

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**February 27, 2014: WLFITV**

## **Sun sentenced in Purdue grade-changing scheme**



By Holly Campbell

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A man involved in a grade-changing scheme at Purdue was sentenced to jail time Thursday.

Former Purdue student Roy Sun, 25, will spend 90 days behind bars for his role in stealing professors' passwords and changing his grades. Sun took the stand today and admitted to changing 10 grades over the span of two years while he was a student at Purdue.

Investigators said Sun worked with two friends, Sujay Sharma and Mitsutoshi Shirasaki to break into professors' offices, bug their computers, steal passwords and then change their grades.

Sun said in the beginning they only stole exams. He said he felt "untouchable" when they got away with changing his grades.

Sun graduated Purdue in 2010. He worked as an engineer for a few years before going to graduate school at Boston University. He was attending school there when he was arrested last spring. Boston University has since expelled Sun.

Sun pleaded guilty in December to two counts of computer tampering and one count of conspiracy to commit computer tampering.

Sharma was sentenced to 18 months probation and 200 hours of community service on Monday.

Shirasaki is believed to be in Japan and is wanted on a warrant.

Sun was also sentenced to 4 years probation after he serves his jail time, 100 hours of community service and the judge ordered that he must pay \$330 to Purdue and return transcripts and his diploma from the university.

## **Prosecutors ID 126 possible witnesses in fatal Purdue shooting**

By Holly Campbell

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – Prosecutors may call more than 120 people to testify in the murder trial of Cody Cousins.

Cousins, 24, is being held without bond in the fatal shooting of another Purdue student on campus last month. Prosecutors filed discovery papers in the case, listing 126 potential witnesses, including Purdue students and police.

Prosecutors also have more than 60 recorded and written statements taken after the shooting and stabbing of 21-year-old Andrew Boldt. One of those is a video of Cousins taken the day of the shooting, Jan. 21.

The filing also includes a list of potential evidence, including a .38-caliber revolver, a Gerber knife and photographs from witnesses' cell phones.

Cousins' jury trial is set for April 22.

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**February 26, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Ex-Purdue student gets probation for hacking professor's computer**

Written by Ron Wilkins

Sujay Sharma's easy route to better grades by conspiring to tamper with a Purdue University professor's computer got him a felony conviction and 18 months of probation.

Sharma, who was sentenced Monday, might be able to change his felony conviction to a misdemeanor conviction. But first he must complete a probation period, which includes 200 hours of community service, continued counseling and testifying truthfully against co-defendants Roy Sun and Mitsutoshi Shirasaki, according to a sentence summary from the Tippecanoe County prosecutor's office.

Between January 2010 and December 2012, the trio, all Purdue students at the time, allegedly broke into professors' offices and replaced the computer keyboards with identical ones that recorded log-in information.

This enabled them to learn the professors' passwords; they then replaced the original keyboards, according to the probable cause affidavit.

Sun and Shirasaki are accused of using the passwords to change many of their grades, while Sharma was accused of changing only one of his.

Sharma pleaded guilty in December to conspiracy to commit computer tampering, a Class D felony. Six other charges were dropped.

Sun also pleaded guilty in December to an identical conspiracy charge. Additionally, Sun pleaded guilty to two counts of computer tampering. Sun is scheduled to be sentenced Thursday.

Sun and Sharma were arrested in May and June.

Shirasaki is a fugitive.

Although Shirasaki reportedly cooperated with police during the investigation, he returned to his native Japan and has not been arrested on 18 charges, including conspiracy to commit burglary, conspiracy to commit theft, and several counts each of burglary, computer tampering and theft.

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**February 25, 2014: WLFITV**

## **Man charged after he stole vehicle, tried evading police**

By Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – Charges are filed against a Kokomo man after prosecutors said he stole a vehicle and tried to evade police.

Prosecutors said Jordan Reynolds, 32, was behind the wheel of a truck that was reported stolen Thursday, Feb. 20. Officers said police attempted to stop the truck, but Reynolds would not yield to emergency lights.

Authorities report Reynolds eventually drove the vehicle into a field and fled on foot, near Lafayette Fire Department Station 9. Officers said they found Reynolds hiding under shelving near the LFD's training facility.

Police said officers found marijuana, methamphetamine and a pipe in his jacket.

Reynolds was booked into the Tippecanoe County Jail. He faces charges including auto theft, possession of marijuana, possession of methamphetamine and resisting law enforcement.

According to court documents, Reynolds has prior criminal history.

In July 2009, Reynolds was convicted for strangulation in Hamilton County. In February 2008, he was convicted of aggravated battery in Howard County. Two other cases that were also from Howard County show he was convicted of intimidation in November 2005, and he was convicted of burglary and criminal recklessness in June 2001.

**February 25, 2014: WLFITV**

## **Lafayette man charged for stealing AC units**

By Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man faces charges after prosecutors said he stole air conditioning units from several Lafayette homes last fall.

Anthony Volpi, 44, faces burglary, theft and corrupt business influence charges. According to police, the string of thefts last year started in September and continued into December.

During the investigation, prosecutors said another man told police he and Volpi broke into vacant homes. They said Volpi later admitted stealing at least 15 AC units and scrapping them for money.

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**February 20, 2014: WLFITV**

## **4 face charges in Lafayette armed robbery**

By Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – Four individuals face charges in connection with a robbery in Lafayette last Thursday.

Prosecutors said Lawrence Anderson, 23, Cortez Collins, 21, Jaaz Jones, 20, and Alexis Daniels, 18, face multiple charges including robbery, burglary and theft. They said Anderson faces two additional battery charges.

Court documents said the incident occurred at a home on the 2500 block of Eckman Drive in Lafayette on Thursday, Feb. 13. Prosecutors said it was drug-related and the group targeted the home.

Officers report a woman inside the home opened the door for Daniels, when Anderson, Collins and Jones went inside and stole a safe and a Playstation Three.

Prosecutors said Anderson also assaulted the woman with a handgun.

**February 20, 2014: WLFITV**

## **Lafayette man charged with bestiality**

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) - A Lafayette man faces bestiality charges for allegedly having sexual relations with a dog.

Police were called to a home on Walnut Street in Dayton on Saturday for a report of a suspicious person. Prosecutors said a woman had surveillance footage of David Arnold, 52, having sex with her dog.

According to court documents, Arnold was a previous resident of the home. On tape, he was allegedly seen engaging in several sex acts with the dog, including intercourse.

Officers went to Arnold's residence in Lafayette the next day and it was confirmed that he was the same man in the surveillance footage.

He is charged with two felony counts of bestiality.

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**February 19, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **El Rodeo restaurant empire accused of money laundering**

Written by Justin L. Mack

Civil forfeiture lawsuits filed in Marion and Tippecanoe counties against El Rodeo and dozens of interconnected restaurants and business entities raided across the state last fall accuse the Mexican eatery empire of being a money laundering operation.

The lawsuits do not detail the nature of the alleged money laundering and other illegal activity by the businesses and people affiliated with them. The documents, filed in the past week, mention millions of dollars seized in bank

accounts, as well as foreign currencies, gold coins, vehicles and homes. The November raids are believed to be part of a grand jury probe. Prosecutors have not elaborated.

The forfeitures total more than \$5 million.

Court documents released Wednesday by the Marion County prosecutor's office reveal that in November investigators seized more than \$2.7 million in U.S. currency after freezing bank accounts of dozens of individuals, restaurants and other businesses listed as defendants in the case. Police also seized two vehicles, the equivalent of \$1.1 million in foreign currency, 15 Mexican gold coins and one unknown foreign coin from the Indianapolis home of El Rodeo principal Francisco Salgado.

A third vehicle was seized from Enrique Melendez and Rafael Gonzalez, two of the nearly 30 other listed defendants.

Two complaints filed in Marion County on Jan. 2 call for the forfeiture of Salgado's property in the 8400 block of Skipjack Drive and the property of El Rodeo secretary Jose Melendez in the 10000 block of Geist Ridge Court in Fishers. According to the Marion County assessor's office, Salgado's property has a 2013 gross assessed value of \$460,300. The Hamilton County assessor's office shows that Melendez's property has a 2013 appraised value of \$634,200.

A total of six civil forfeiture complaints were filed in Marion County from Dec. 2 to Tuesday.

A criminal forfeiture occurs after a defendant is convicted of a crime. In a civil forfeiture, such as the El Rodeo case, no one has been convicted.

"No criminal charges have been filed in this matter, and no further information regarding the ongoing investigation is available at this time," Marion County prosecutor's office spokeswoman Peg McLeish said in an email.

J. Richard Kiefer and Jillian C. Keating are listed as attorneys involved in the case, but it is unclear whom they represent. Calls placed to Kiefer and Keating for comment Wednesday were not returned.

On Friday, the Tippecanoe County prosecutor's office filed a civil forfeiture lawsuit cataloging the seizure of \$3.4 million from businesses and individuals with ties to El Rodeo in at least 11 Indiana counties.

Calls placed to that prosecutor's office were not returned Wednesday.

The suits claim that all of the seized money, vehicles and property were obtained illegally. Therefore, the defendants should forfeit the money to the criminal justice system.

Police across the state served search warrants the week of Nov. 18 during raids at restaurants and homes. El Rodeo establishments in Indianapolis and Avon, Fortville, Lafayette, Mooresville, Richmond and West Lafayette were searched.

Other Mexican-themed restaurants also were raided, including El Jaripeo eateries in Indianapolis and Frankfort, Lebanon and Zionsville; Los Toros restaurants in Indianapolis; and three La Carreta Restaurant & Bars, in Merrillville, Schererville and Vincennes.

The single largest cash seizure mentioned in the civil forfeiture complaints came from a business with no address that was listed as "El Rodeo #11, LLC." Court documents state that \$967,840.81 was taken from a PNC bank account associated with that entity.

The Marion County complaints accuse the defendants of running a corrupt business enterprise through a pattern of racketeering activity.

Court documents state that the suspected money laundering took the form of receiving, concealing, possessing, transferring or transporting the proceeds of criminal activity. The suit goes on to state that the money laundering involves at least two such incidents of the criminal conduct. There is no mention of what kind of criminal conduct took place.

Theft accusations relate to extorting unauthorized control over state property by illicitly retaining and failing to report money owed to the state as sales taxes, use taxes or other taxes on several occasions.

The Tippecanoe County lawsuit includes accusations of forgery and perjury related to tax documents, business formation documents, employment records, tax returns and other documents containing false or misleading information.

In addition to the request for forfeiture of the cash, vehicle and property, both county complaints ask the court to:

- Grant a permanent injunction against further operation of alleged “racketeering activity.”
- Require the defendants to divest themselves of any interests in the named restaurants and deliver the funds to the county governments and state.
- Prevent the owners from reorganizing their businesses.
- Revoke any professional licenses the defendants might have from the state of Indiana.

**February 19, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Tippecanoe files civil forfeiture lawsuit against El Rodeo, others**

Written by Ron Wilkens

Police confiscated more than \$3.4 million during November raids at El Rodeo restaurants and other eateries throughout the state, and now Tippecanoe County wants to keep that money.

In a civil forfeiture lawsuit filed Friday, the Tippecanoe County prosecutor’s office accuses El Rodeo’s owners and other parties in the businesses of obtaining the money illegally. Therefore, the suit claims, the defendants should forfeit the money.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said in a written response to the Journal & Courier that the suspects in the Nov. 18 raids have not been criminally charged, and the cases are under investigation. They, therefore, should be considered innocent until proven guilty in court.

A civil forfeiture is different than a criminal forfeiture, which happens after a defendant is convicted of a crime.

Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller, who was not commenting on the specific case, explained the purpose of a civil forfeiture action.

“The object of civil forfeiture is to take away the ill-gotten gains and put (the assets) into the criminal justice system.”

In order to win a civil forfeiture case, the prosecutor must prove through a preponderance of the evidence that the gains were illegally attained, Zoeller said.

The suit names at least 25 restaurants and several individuals associated with the restaurants of operating criminal enterprises and engaging in money laundering for concealing the proceeds of criminal activity. Specifically what criminal activity allegedly took place is not mentioned.

The lawsuit also accuses the restaurants of theft, alleging that the businesses failed to report the correct amount of money they owed the state in taxes.

Harrington said Marion County prosecutors have filed a similar civil forfeiture suit.

Police across the state served search warrants on Nov. 18 during coordinated raids at restaurants across the state. El Rodeo establishments in Lafayette, West Lafayette, Richmond, Indianapolis, Fortville, Mooresville and Avon were searched.

Other Mexican-themed restaurants also were raided, including El Jaripeo eateries in Lebanon, Frankfort, Zionsville and Indianapolis. Police also searched a Los Toros restaurants in Indianapolis, and three La Carreta Restaurant & Bars in Schererville, Vincennes and Merrillville.

One of the individuals named as a defendant in the lawsuit, Jose Bustos, is the manager of the El Rodeo Restaurant in West Lafayette. Reached for comment on Tuesday, he said, "I don't have any comments right now because our lawyers are still working on it. They don't tell us anything."

Bustos said Tuesday he was not aware that a lawsuit had been filed.

The lawsuit alleges that perjury and forgery occurred through falsified tax documents, business formation documents, employment records and tax returns.

In addition to the request for forfeiture of the cash, the suit asks for a permanent injunction against further operation of alleged "racketeering activity."

The suit asks the court to require the defendants to divest themselves of any interests in the named restaurants and deliver the funds of divestment to the plaintiffs. The plaintiffs include the state of Indiana, Tippecanoe County prosecutor's office, Lafayette and West Lafayette police departments, the Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Office, Purdue Police Department and the Indiana State Police.

The lawsuit also asks that the owners be prevented from reorganizing their businesses.

The suit asks the court to revoke any professional licenses the defendants might have from the state.

Lastly, the suit asks that the cost of the legal action, the enforcement and attorney fees be assessed against the defendants.

Another civil forfeiture lawsuit was filed in Tippecanoe Superior Court 1 on Jan. 3 seeking to force Luciano Santana and Jose Alfredo Bernal, both of whom are named in the suit filed Friday, to turn over their vehicles, a 2008 Hummer H3 and a 2009 Ford F-150 truck.

J. Richard Kiefer is listed in court records as Bernal's attorney. The Journal & Courier was unable to reach Keifer on Tuesday for comments on either lawsuit.

**February 19, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Home surveillance video leads to bestiality charges for Lafayette man**

Written by Emily Campion

A Lafayette man faces charges of two counts of bestiality after police say he was caught on home video engaged in sexual acts with a dog, according to charges filed Wednesday in Tippecanoe Superior Court 5.

David A. Arnold, 52, faces two Class D felony counts in connection with the incident, which was reported by a Dayton resident and investigated by the Dayton Police Department.

The woman, who is not identified in court documents, told police that a former occupant of her home was seen on home surveillance video having sex with a dog. She identified the man as Arnold.

Police viewed the video, then interviewed the suspect at his Lafayette home. According to court documents, Arnold confirmed he was the man seen in the video.

He is ordered to appear in Judge Les Meade's court on March 17.

**February 19, 2014: WLFI-TV**

### **Laf. woman sentenced to over a decade in prison**



Written by Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette woman was sentenced to over a decade in prison for possession of a narcotic drug.

Prosecutors said Cassandra Davis, 36, was wanted on a warrant last year. In October 2013, she was arrested outside of her residence on Colfax Street in Lafayette.

Police said they found evidence of a folded piece of foil with heroin, a cap for a syringe, a razor blade and two pills.

Davis pleaded guilty to possession of a narcotic drug. She was sentenced to a total of 12 years, six years in the Department of Corrections and four years on supervised probation.

**February 19, 2014: WBIX**

### **Officials Seek \$3.4M Seized From Indiana Restaurants**

(LAFAYETTE) - Prosecutors are seeking to keep more than \$3.4 million seized last fall during police raids at about two dozen Mexican restaurants across Indiana.

Civil forfeiture lawsuits have been filed in Tippecanoe and Marion counties, accusing the restaurant owners and others involved with the businesses of illegally obtaining the money. The Tippecanoe County lawsuit alleges the restaurants carried out offenses including money laundering and falsifying tax documents.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington tells the Journal & Courier that no criminal charges have been filed from the November raids and the investigation continues.

The raids involved El Rodeo restaurants in the Lafayette, Indianapolis and Richmond areas and other Mexican restaurants in central and northwestern Indiana.

An attorney for the restaurants didn't immediately return a message from The Associated Press seeking comment.

**February 19, 2014: WLFI-TV**

## **Woman sentenced for breaking into Family Express**



Written by Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Battle Ground woman is sentenced to six years for breaking into a Family Express store in June of 2013.

Surveillance video shows Jerrica Zygus, 25, threw a rock through a glass door. While police were at the scene, Zygus walked through the parking lot and later told police she stole a box of candy bars and pointed out where she hid them.

Prosecutors said police found the box of candy in a nearby tree.

Zygus pleaded guilty to burglary as part of a plea agreement. She was sentenced to 450 days in the Department of Corrections, with nearly 4 years of supervised probation and one year unsupervised probation.

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**February 14, 2014: WLFI TV**

## **Balser heads back to jail**

By Holly Campbell

Those attacks generated two additional charges, failure to restrain his dog resulting in bodily injury, Class A misdemeanors. Those charges are in Tippecanoe Superior Court 5.

But the probation violations Balser admitted to in Tippecanoe Superior 1 had nothing to do with the dogs' attacks. Instead, it had to do with four incidents that occurred in 2012 and 2013 before the attacks.

Balser admitted violating his probation on three occasions when he was driving without being licensed. He also admitted a fourth violation in October 2013 in which he was in possession of alcohol. Some of the conditions of his probation are that he not commit felonies or misdemeanors and not drink or be around alcohol, according to information presented during the hearing.

Judge Randy Williams ordered Balser to serve the balance of his suspended sentence from his 2009 convictions for conspiracy to commit burglary, a Class C felony, and auto theft and theft, Class D felonies.

In 2009, Williams sentenced Balser to 10 years, with four years suspended. With time already served and time off for good behavior, he was released from prison in June 2010. He violated probation in 2011 and went back to prison again before being released in February 2012 to serve his remaining three years on probation. Those three years were revoked Friday.

**February 14, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Pit bull owner's mom emotional as son heads off to prison**

Written by Ron Wilkins

The mother of the man accused of allowing his pet pit bulls to get loose and attack two people said Friday during his probation revocation violation hearing that her son's not the "monster" police make him out to be.

Cory Balser's family filled the first row of the gallery in Tippecanoe Superior 1 Friday morning and watched as he admitted to four violations of his probation from three 2009 convictions. As a result, he'll serve the remaining three years of a prison sentence, which had been suspended.

Wearing a blue jail uniform, his hands chained to his waist, Balser spoke in quiet tones to his nearby family. After the hearing, Lois Balser said her son had been targeted by police after he was arrested and entered the judicial system as a teenager.

"I don't think it's fair that he's going to jail for my dog biting my husband," she said, her voice choked with emotion after the hearing. "They're making my son out to be a monster, and he's not."

Balser, 22, found himself back in the public's eye and the court's scrutiny after his two pit bull terriers attacked and injured Balser's father last fall. Less than a month later, the dogs attacked and injured Balser's 67-year-old neighbor and her dog. For one of his pit bulls, Chewy, the Dec. 3 attack was his third attack on a person since October 2012. When police caught Chewy a few days after that attack, he was euthanized.

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**February 13, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Lafayette woman charged with OWI**

Colleen Jill Holmes, 61, of Lafayette, faces numerous charges after hitting a car on Underwood Street and fleeing the scene Nov. 28.

Police found Holmes two blocks away with her car parked in front of her home. According to court documents, Holmes told police she became distracted while driving an Oldsmobile and hit a pickup truck head on.

Holmes' passenger told police they had been drinking and left intoxicated in Holmes' car. Holmes was taken to St. Elizabeth Central for a legal blood draw resulting with a BAC more than .015. The legal limit to operate a vehicle is 0.08.

Holmes' priors include operating while a habitual traffic offender and two convictions of operating while intoxicated.

Holmes was charged Thursday with operating a motor vehicle after privileges had been forfeited for life, class C felony, operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated while having a prior conviction for operating while intoxicated, class D felony, operating while intoxicated, class A misdemeanor, and operating a vehicle with at least 0.15 gram of alcohol, class A misdemeanor.

Court documents determine Holmes as a habitual substance offender. She posted bond in November.

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**February 10, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **18-year sentence for 4th defendant in Purdue robberies**



Written by Ron Wilkins

For Julius Armstead, 18 is not a good number.

He was 18 years old when he robbed four Purdue University students on campus over the course of four nights in October 2012, and his sentence, which was handed down Friday, comes out to 18 years.

Armstead, now 19, recently pleaded guilty to four counts of robbery and received an 18-year sentence on each count. The sentences, however, run concurrently.

He'll spend 14 years at an Indiana Department of Correction facility, followed by two years at the Tippecanoe County Community Corrections facility. After that, he'll be on probation for two years.

Along with the four robbery charges, Armstead pleaded guilty to four theft charges for taking the Purdue students' property, including laptops, a phone, wallets and a watch. Those charges were merged with the robbery charges, according to a sentencing summary from Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington.

The court found aggravating factors — such as Armstead's criminal history, that he was out on bond at the time of the robberies and that he violated the conditions of his bond — outweighed the mitigating factors.

He also was ordered to pay \$274.50 in restitution.

Armstead was the last of four defendants charged in the strong-arm assaults on campus that started on Oct. 26, 2012, and ended Oct. 29, 2012. The other three also pleaded guilty and were sentenced Jan. 24 to prison terms ranging from four to nine years. Each was ordered to pay \$274.50 in restitution.

Armstead attended a hearing on June 14, 2013, and was accused of attempting to flee from the courthouse after officers attempted to arrest him on a warrant for theft and conspiracy to commit fraud in an unrelated charge. Armstead was convicted of resisting law enforcement for resisting the bailiffs who attempted to arrest him.

**February 10, 2014: WLFI-TV**

## Lafayette man sentenced for campus robberies



TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man is sentenced to 14 years in prison for his role in four robberies near Purdue's campus.

Julius Armstead, 19, robbed four individuals near campus during a four-day stretch in October of 2012.

As News 18 has already reported, three other defendants were sentenced for their roles in the robberies in January.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Armstead was sentenced to 14 years in prison, 2 years in Community Corrections and 2 years on probation.

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**February 4, 2014:** Lafayette Journal and Courier

## Cocaine dealer sentenced to 14 years in jail



Written by Ron Wilkins

Kenith Kilpatrick recently admitted that he sold cocaine to an undercover police officer in the parking lot of Pay Less Super Market on Beck Lane. Kilpatrick learned Monday that he will spend 14 years in jail for that illegal deal in May 2012.

Kilpatrick, 38, of Chicago, met the undercover officer on May 1, 2012, and sold crack cocaine. Kilpatrick also admitted to being a habitual substance offender. He faced a possible sentence between 12 and 16 years in prison.

He has prior convictions of dealing cocaine and dealing cannabis in Illinois, as well as a domestic battery conviction. Those convictions were found to be aggravating factors at his sentencing hearing. Other aggravating factors included his history of illegal alcohol and drug use. The court found three mitigating factors — his guilty plea, taking responsibility for his crimes, minor children dependent upon him, and remorse, according to a sentencing summary.

Kilpatrick was sentenced to 12 years in an Indiana Department of Correction facility, followed by two years at the Tippecanoe County Community Corrections facility. If, however, community corrections does not accept Kilpatrick, he'll serve the two years at the Department of Correction, according to the sentencing summary.

**February 4, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Heroin possession leads to 23-year sentence**



Written by Emily Campion

Stuart Wayne Bookwalter, 34, of Lafayette has a history peppered with charges, including theft, attempted burglary, receiving stolen property, carrying a handgun without a license and possession of marijuana.

Bookwalter was sentenced Monday to 23 years for dealing heroin and related offenses. Mitigating factors include mental and physical health issues and two dependent children.

On Jan. 17, 2013, police found him at AOK Campground on County Road 300 South. A search of Bookwalter and his car produced a brownish substance that field-tested positive for heroin, and numerous syringes.

According to court documents, Bookwalter admitted to having 18 grams of heroin he was bringing back from Chicago.

Bookwalter was convicted of dealing heroin, possession of heroin, possession of a syringe and possession of paraphernalia. Bookwalter admitted to being a habitual substance offender to the bench during a jury trial Nov. 6.

**February 4, 2014: WLFI-TV**

## **Man sentenced for dealing cocaine to undercover police**



TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) – A Chicago man with ties to Tippecanoe County gets more than a decade in prison for dealing drugs.

Kenith Kilpatrick, 37, received a 14-year sentence after twice dealing cocaine to police at a Lafayette grocery store.

According to court documents, Kilpatrick sold cocaine to an undercover officer two times in May of 2012 at the Pay Less on Old U.S. 231.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Kilpatrick pleaded guilty to one count of dealing cocaine and being a habitual offender.

Kilpatrick was sentenced to 12 years in prison and 2 years in community corrections.

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**February 3, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **2 charged with dealing, possessing heroin**

Written by Emily Campion

Two Lafayette men face numerous charges for dealing and possessing heroin after to a three-month undercover operation.

Christopher Louis Baughman, Jr., 21, and Mitchell Eugene Gillham, 24, were formally charged Monday in Tippecanoe Superior Court 2 with conspiracy to deal a narcotic drug, three counts of dealing a narcotic drug, and three counts of possession of a narcotic drug.

According to court documents Baughman acted as the go-between for the undercover officer and Baughman's cousin, Gillham, who allegedly provided him heroin. Baughman was charged with an additional possession charge, a dealing charge, possession of paraphernalia and resisting law enforcement.

Baughman admitted to selling heroin "a few times" during a traffic violation stop, according to the affidavit of probable cause.

Baughman is in Tippecanoe County Jail with a \$12,500 surety and \$1,250 cash bond. Gillham has not been booked and was released on bond on charges for possession of a narcotic drug in 2013.

**February 3, 2014: WLFI-TV**

## **Attica man sentenced to more than 2 decades**



Written by Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – An Attica man will spend more than two decades behind bars after dealing heroin at a Lafayette campground.

In January 2013, officers were called to the AOK Campground in Lafayette for a report of a suspicious vehicle. According to court documents, officers found 18 grams of heroin and a syringe on 34 year old Stuart Bookwalter.

Bookwalter admitted he was bringing it back from Chicago. He was convicted in November on four charges, including dealing heroin. He also admitted to a charge of being a habitual substance offender.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Bookwalter was sentenced to 23 years in prison.

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**January 31, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Lafayette man charged for hitting his pregnant wife**

Written by Emily Campion

A Lafayette man faces battery charges after a fight with his pregnant wife escalated to a physical altercation on Sunday night.

Sergio Emmanuel Galvan, 22, of Lafayette was charged in Tippecanoe Circuit Court for battery, a Class C felony, and domestic battery, a Class D felony, in front of a child less than 16 years old.

According to court documents, Galvan hit his wife in the stomach and face, bit her arm and placed her in a choke hold. His wife was 12 weeks pregnant and their 2-year-old was present during the fight.

Galvan received a nonjudicial disciplinary action for assault in September 2012 while in the military at Camp Pendleton, which lead to an other than honorable discharge.

Galvan was taken to Tippecanoe County Jail and is being held on a \$10,000 surety and \$1,000 cash bond.

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**January 29, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **West Point man deemed habitual offender after another round of charges**

Written by Emily Campion

Jason Robert Jones, 31, of West Point was formally charged Wednesday in Tippecanoe Superior Court for possessing narcotics and controlled substances.

According to court documents, Lafayette police pulled Jones over on Jan. 23 after he neglected to signal before a making a turn. During a pat-down, police found a wad of cash and two weights in Jones' pocket.

A search of the van produced numerous pills and paraphernalia, including Dormin pills — commonly used to “cut” heroin — a used syringe, empty baggie corners, several cellphones and heroin.

Police identified the pills as Vyvanse, a drug used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, Oxycontin, Amphetamine and Clonazepam. The stop was made within 1,000 feet of St. James School and two housing complexes.

Between 2001 and 2011 Jones had been convicted of dealing a controlled substance, dealing marijuana, dealing methamphetamine and operating while intoxicated in Tippecanoe County. Given his priors, the state of Indiana deemed Jones a habitual substance offender and a habitual offender.

Jones also has been convicted of receiving stolen property, theft and burglary. Currently, Jones faces two counts of possession of a narcotic drug, Class B felonies; three counts of a controlled substance, Class C felonies; possession of a syringe, a Class D felony; and operating a vehicle while suspended, a Class A misdemeanor.

Jones is in Tippecanoe County Jail on a \$2500 cash and \$25,000 surety bond.

**January 29, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Inmate scuffle leads to battery charges**

Written by Emily Campion

An Oct. 7 scuffle between inmates at Tippecanoe County Jail resulted in Wednesday's formal charging of Quinton Devon Newsom, 23, of Lafayette with battery in Tippecanoe Superior Court 2.

Victim Brandon Michael Darnell refused to speak to law enforcement about his black eye, but video surveillance showed an argument between Newsom and Darnell escalate when Newsom hit Darnell on the left side of the face. Darnell fell to the floor, he laid motionless for several minutes.

Newsom dragged Darnell by the arm to Newsom's cell, leaving a bloody trail. Newsom then went back to clean the blood.

In the video footage, Darnell's feet could be seen sticking out of Newsom's cell. According to court documents, Darnell's feet began to move after several minutes. Newsom later helped Darnell sit up and assist him back to his cell.

**January 29, 2014: WLFI-TV**

## **Man pleads guilty to bank robberies**



Written by Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man is sentenced to more than three decades behind bars after pleading guilty to two bank robberies.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said 49-year-old Ronald Corbin was sentenced to 35 years in prison.

As News 18 previously reported in October 2012, Corbin was linked to armed robberies at the Lafayette Savings Bank on Twyckekham Boulevard and the Huntington Bank on Teal Road.

He has also been connected to a robbery at the Regions Bank in Frankfort.

In December 2013, Corbin pleaded guilty to a series of bank robberies in Illinois.

**January 29, 2014: WLFI-TV**

## **Battery charges for man who knocked out fellow inmate**

Written by Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A battery charge is filed after prosecutors said a man knocked out a fellow inmate at the Tippecanoe County Jail.

Prosecutors said Quinton Newsom hit another inmate after an argument in October of 2013. They said jail video shows Newsom approaching the man, arguing with him and then knocking him out.

They said the video shows he dragged the man to Newsom's own cell leaving a trail of blood he later cleaned up.

Prosecutors said the video also shows Newsom later helped the man to the cell he was supposed to be in.

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**January 27, 2014: WLFI-TV**

## **3 teens sentenced for campus robberies**



Written by Dan Klein

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – Three teenagers were sentenced to prison time Friday after four robberies near Purdue's campus in 2012.

Walter Jones, 19, got a 14-year sentence including nine years in prison after pleading guilty to three counts of robbery.

Marqese Estrada, 19, and 18-year-old Claude Moore both pleaded guilty to two counts of robbery and got lighter sentences including five years in prison for Estrada and four years in prison for Moore.

The three men robbed their victims during a four-day stretch of October 2012.

As News 18 previously reported, each victim was attacked and robbed from behind while walking on campus.

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**January 24, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

# Not guilty plea entered, bond denied for suspect in killing of Purdue student

Written by Ron Wilkins and Justin L. Mack

Purdue University student Cody Cousins appeared Thursday afternoon before Tippecanoe County Magistrate Sean Persin on one charge of murder and learned that he might face between 45 and 65 years in prison if convicted of shooting and stabbing a fellow engineering student.

Cousins, 23, tilted his head slightly down toward the defense table and appeared to close his eyes as the specific allegation that he killed Andrew Boldt, 21, of West Bend, Wis., was read. The rest of the hearing, Cousins sat upright and looked directly at Persin as he answered yes or no to the magistrate's questions.

During the initial hearing, Cousins was told of his rights and possible consequences if convicted. If there are no mitigating or aggravating factors, he would face a 55-year term.

The magistrate said the case might be eligible for Indiana's capital punishment — death, or life in prison — but that enhanced charge has not been filed.

Persin entered a not guilty plea and denied bond for Cousins.

- LISTEN: Police respond to shooting at Purdue University

## The crime

According to court documents filed earlier in the day, West Lafayette and Purdue police responded shortly after noon Tuesday to a report of shots fired inside the Purdue Electrical Engineering Building.

A West Lafayette police officer saw Cousins sitting on the ground outside the building with his hands behind his head. The officer observed blood on Cousins' hands and clothes. He surrendered to police without incident.

Court documents allege that officers who entered the building saw bloody footprints in the area of Room 067. Inside the classroom, police found Boldt's body. He had been shot and stabbed, police said. Officers recovered a handgun, a knife and several spent shell casings near the body.

Witnesses in the room identified Cousins as the assailant, and surveillance footage showed Cousins in the building, according to the probable cause affidavit filed with the charge. The document does not include witness statements or allude to possible motives.

- RAW VIDEO: Arrest made after Purdue fatal shooting

## Recollections

In the wake of the shooting, those who had contact with Cousins, an engineering student who lived off campus, provided conflicting recollections of him. While some described Cousins as easygoing, others describe him as sometimes disagreeable, even rude.

Jason Clark, a Purdue adjunct assistant professor, taught Cousins in his ECE 202 class, Linear Circuit Analysis, in fall 2012.

"I recall that he was an intensely serious student by his demeanor," Clark said. "He did not mingle much with others and he rarely asked questions."

Clark said Cousins did not visit him during office hours but frequently attended optional exam review sessions.

“In my limited interaction with Cody, I did not notice anything about him that made me think that he might later commit such a violent act,” Clark said. “Otherwise, I would have reported my concern.”

Ashley Eidsmore, a graduate teaching assistant in the engineering school, told Associated Press that some of her lab mates who worked closely with Cousins complained that he was a “just all-around rude individual.”

Purdue professor Thomas Talavage, who worked with Cousins, told the AP that Cousins “didn’t like to be told he was wrong.”

“He tended to be more aggressive in his debating and tended to be more convinced he was right.” Talavage said, later adding that such traits are not at all unusual among electrical engineering students, who are under tremendous pressure to succeed.

Cousins and Boldt were undergraduate teaching assistants in separate courses, both taught by the same professor.

- MORE: Complete collection of stories

'Struggling as well'

During Thursday’s hearing, Cousins’ mother, Wendy Melancon, his sister and his father, Ernest Cousins, sat a few feet away, separated from Cousins by a brick and glass wall and a locked steel door. Cousins’ family entered the small room a few minutes before the media was allowed into the room, and Cousins glanced over at them briefly before the hearing started, but he did not attempt to communicate.

His mother and sister sat with arms laced together, leaning slightly in on each other, holding hands for support. None of the family spoke to media immediately before or after the hearing. Cousins’ attorney, Robert Gever of Fort Wayne, made a brief statement afterward.

“I just met with his family,” Gever said. “They are obviously struggling as well. Our hearts and their hearts are full of compassion and concern for the Purdue family and the family of Mr. Boldt.

“We will proceed in providing this young man, Mr. Cousins, with the best defense we can,” he said.

At the end of the hearing, Persin set a trial date of April 22.

**January 24, 2014: WLFI-TV**

## **Cousins enters preliminary plea of not guilty**

Written by Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) – Cody Cousins, accused in the stabbing and shooting death of Purdue student Andrew Boldt, entered a preliminary plea of not guilty Thursday.

Court documents released Thursday revealed that Boldt had suffered stab wounds. Documents also revealed that a handgun was found nearby with spent shell casings.

Cousins has been charged with murder and could spend between 45 to 65 years behind bars. The jury trial has been set for April 22.

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**January 23, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **West Lafayette man face charges of child exploitation and child pornography**

Written by Emily Campion

Courtney B. Crenshaw of West Lafayette was formally charged with three counts of child exploitation and one count of child pornography Wednesday in Tippecanoe Superior Court 2.

According to the probable cause affidavit, the West Lafayette Police Department used ARES computer network — a peer-to-peer file sharing network that allows users to share files, such as video and photographs — to download several partial files with a particular IP address with titles alluding to sexual actions with underage female victims. Police traced the IP address to the residence of Crenshaw, 23.

On Jan. 14, police went to Crenshaw's residence, where he admitted to downloading pornography several times a week using terms commonly used to search for child pornography. Crenshaw also told police he shared pornography on the ARES network.

Crenshaw stated he was "pretty sure" there was child pornography on his computer and/or external hard drive, but said he never searched specifically for child pornography, according to court documents.

Police then seized several digital devices from Crenshaw's residence. The department's technician found numerous videos constituting child pornography on an external hard drive.

Crenshaw was held in Tippecanoe County Jail from Jan. 14 to Jan. 16, when he posted bond.

Child exploitation is deemed a Class C felony, and child pornography is classified as a Class D felony.

**January 23, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **West Lafayette man faces two counts of child molesting**

Written by Emily Campion

A West Lafayette man was formally charged Wednesday in Tippecanoe Superior Court 1 for two counts of child molesting involving a child under the age of 14.

Clifton M. Wilkins Jr., 51, faces two Class C felonies, each possibly resulting in two to eight years upon conviction.

According to the affidavit of probable cause, a Lafayette Police Department investigator interviewed the minor, who disclosed that on several occasions Wilkins acted with sexual intent toward the minor.

Wilkins is being held at Tippecanoe County Jail with \$100,000 surety and \$10,000 cash bond.

**January 23, 2014: WLFI-TV**

## **Lafayette woman found with 'ice' down her pants**

A Lafayette woman faces methamphetamine possession and dealing charges after a traffic stop on Wednesday.

Prosecutors said the Lafayette Police Department made a routine traffic stop at Greenbush and N. Ninth Streets 6 p.m. on Wednesday. One officer involved noticed the passenger Bonny Ahlrich, 51, of Lafayette reaching into her purse after LPD had told her not to do so.

They asked if Ahlrich had weapons and she allowed officers to search her purse. Upon further investigation of the bag, the officer found several empty stamp-sized baggies, commonly used for packaging controlled substances.

A K-9 officer arrived at the scene and confirmed the presence of narcotics. Authorities said when asked, Ahlrich told officers there was nothing illegal in the vehicle, but officers noted suspicious behavior as something may be concealed on her person.

LPD conducted a further search of Ahlrich and her clothing. At one point during the search, she jumped back from the officer and admitted, when asked, to having “ice” on her. Police found more than five grams of meth that Ahlrich had hidden in the front of her pants.

Prosecutors said Ahlrich later told to police she was using meth again and selling the drug “because it was easy money.” She admitted that she had sold methamphetamine before that night and that she intended to sell most of the baggie that officers had found.

Ahlrich was charged with two Class A Felonies for possession of methamphetamine and dealing in methamphetamine.

According to prosecutors, Ahlrich was convicted in October 2005 of possession of heroin and possession of cocaine. In September 2004, she was convicted of possession of marijuana.

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**January 22, 2014: WLFI-TV**

## **Cousins expected in court this week**

Written by Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) – Cody Cousins will have his initial court appearance at the Tippecanoe County Jail Thursday afternoon at 2:00 p.m.

Cousins was originally scheduled to have a hearing Wednesday afternoon, but according to the Tippecanoe County Jail that has been rescheduled.

Cousins is being held without bond on a preliminary charge of murder. He is accused of shooting and killing 21-year-old Andrew Boldt on Purdue’s campus on Tuesday.

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**January 3, 2014: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Lafayette man tossed from strip club later held 5 at gunpoint in home**



Written by Justin Mack

The Lafayette man who reportedly held his friends and family at gunpoint last week was high on spice and fuming from getting kicked out of a local strip club, court documents allege.

A dozen criminal charges were filed Thursday in Tippecanoe Circuit Court against 21-year-old Herbert M. Kochell II, including multiple counts of criminal confinement, battery and intimidation.

He also faces a misdemeanor charges of possession of a synthetic drug or synthetic drug lookalike.

According to a probable cause affidavit filed with the charges, officers from the Lafayette Police Department were called to a domestic dispute at 711 S. Fourth St. about 1:26 a.m. Saturday.

Upon arrival, officers were flagged down by a friend of Kochell's. She said Kochell was holding people against their will and firing a handgun inside the house. The 911 call to police came from Kochell's sister, who had barricaded herself in a bedroom.

Police reported that Kochell was holding at least five people hostage in the home, including his wife and his sister.

Witness reports indicate that a group of friends was returning to the home after getting kicked out of Danzer's Show Club. Kochell, who reportedly smoked spice and drank alcohol earlier in the evening, still was upset about getting tossed from the strip club.

He then allegedly went to his bedroom and got his .380-caliber handgun. When he walked back into the living room, he began pointing the weapon at people in the house.

Police reported that Kochell struck his wife with his hand and warned her that he would shoot her if she didn't listen to him. He then told everyone, "I'm the boss."

When Kochell's sister tried to intervene, he reportedly pistol-whipped her in the face. She then ran to her bedroom, and Kochell tried to break down the door.

At one point, Kochell allegedly fired a warning shot in the direction of the laundry room, where a male friend was hiding. After the round was fired, at least three hostages were able to escape the house and get in touch with police.

The Lafayette Emergency Response Team and Hostage Negotiators were called in after attempts to get Kochell to come out were unsuccessful. They established contact, and he surrendered without incident about 3:50 a.m. Saturday.

When searching the residence, officers found a bullet hole in the laundry room wall, and a second bullet hole in one of the bedrooms. They also found about 130 grams of spice, a digital scale and a number of pellet guns or air pistols.

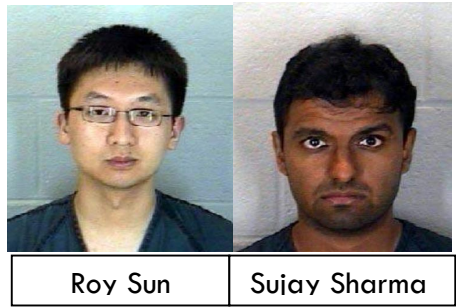
While looking for weapons and rounds, they located Kochell's handgun, a shell casing in the living room and a spent round in the laundry room.

As of Thursday night, Kochell was being held in Tippecanoe County Jail on a bond of \$25,000 surety and \$2,500 cash.

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**January 2, 2014: WLFI TV**

## Two plead guilty in grade-changing scheme



By Brittany Tyner

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) - Two of the three Purdue students charged for changing their grades while they were students at Purdue University pleaded guilty Monday.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Roy Sun pleaded guilty to three charges, including two counts of computer tampering and one count of conspiracy to commit computer tampering, which are all felonies. He could be sentenced to four years.

Sujay Sharma pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit computer tampering. He could be sentenced up to three years.

As News 18 reported in June, investigators said Sun, Sharma, and a third student, Mitsutoshi Shirasaki, stole passwords from professor's keyboards and then changed their grades. The three men faced a combined total of 43 criminal charges.

Harrington said Shirasaki is believed to be in Japan and is wanted on a warrant. Harrington has submitted a request to federal authorities to file an unlawful flight to avoid prosecution charge against Shirasaki.

Sun is scheduled to be sentenced on Feb. 27 and Sharma's sentencing is set for Feb. 24.